

Sports St. Mary's closes out its wild playoff ride [B1]

Opinion Norman La Force looks back at two council terms [A4]

NEW HANDS AT CITY REINS

Ely named Albany mayor

By James Carter

ALBANY — Jon Ely began his first term of office as mayor at the Dec. 6 City Council meeting, succeeding Peggy Thomsen.

Ely's mother, Bonnie, watched her oldest son take office, having traveled from Mount Aukum in gold country to witness the brief ceremony. The rest of the Ely family also was on hand, including Ely's wife Alice, and sons Frank, 7, Bob, 4, and Jack, 2.

Thomsen returned to her seat as a councilwoman, and Allan Maris became vice mayor.

Soon after the reorganization of the council, a yearly event, members got down to business and approved the first reading of an ordinance revision that will speed up the issuance of most sign and home occupation permits.

Passed unanimously by the council, the measure will permanently authorize the community development director to issue such permits without the approval of the Zoning and Planning Commission. The ordinance must be approved by a majority vote at the council's next meeting.

See ELY, Page A10



NEW COUNCILWOMEN Janet Abelson and Kathie Perka are sworn into office by City Clerk Linda Giddings as colleagues Gina Brusatori, Mark Friedman and Larry Damon watch.

Friedman is new EC mayor

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — There were no surprises this week when the City Council went through its annual reorganization. The council voted unanimously to make Councilman Mark Friedman mayor and Councilman Larry Damon vice mayor. Outgoing Mayor Gina Brusatori was named chairwoman of the Redevelopment Agency, and new Councilwoman Kathie Perka became vice chair of the agency.

In his first remarks as mayor, Friedman wryly suggested the city may be entering a new "golden age of El Cerrito—or at least a nicely polished chrome age."

Noting that the city has built up its cash reserves (currently El Cerrito has reserves of more than 15 percent of its general fund) Friedman thanked retiring council members Jane Bartke, Norman La Force, and city staff and management.

"We're now able to think beyond liv-

See FRIEDMAN, Page A10

Farmers Market will keep days; Plaza project will proceed

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — Let the funding begin. The City Council this week unanimously approved the final parcel map for the Plaza revitalization project, which allows the owners to secure construction loans. Last month, council approval was not given because of language in the owners' reciprocal agreements that restricted the popular Farmers Market to one day a week and appeared to restrict new restaurants at the Plaza.

Since that Nov. 15 council meeting, the owners decided to allow the Farmers Market to continue in its usual location

and hours on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Additionally, a new staff report makes it clear that the owners' agreements do not affect existing restaurants in the south side of the Plaza that will be re-modeled in Phase II of the project.

Current restaurants are permitted under the agreements and new restaurants will also be allowed in the northern (Phase I) part of the Plaza near the Fairmount entrance and in the southwest corner of the Plaza along San Pablo Avenue, according to the report.

"Staff feels the owners of the Plaza have made several concessions to the direct benefit of the city, especially in re-

gard to keeping the Farmers Market on Tuesdays and Saturdays," Planning Manager Jill Keimach said in her report to the City Council.

Before the council approved the final map, Plaza architect Edward Gee said bids for demolition work at the Plaza will be received (Tuesday) and that the site will be fenced off after the first of the year.

"We are in the process, now, of moving ahead on the site improvement," Gee said. He said construction is expected to begin in August of next year, and in response to a question, said that the new Plaza is expected to be completed in March 2001.

Event brings El Cerrito history alive

By Tom Lochner

EL CERRITO — Whereas an Emporium sign now stands over an empty store in testimony to the city's fickle commercial climate, greyhounds once chased an elusive mechanical rabbit there.

El Cerrito's dog track, on the site of today's El Cerrito Plaza shopping center, closed in 1939. Exactly a century earlier, Don Victor Castro built an adobe hacienda there. Castro's house was arguably the first building—if only by European architectural standards—in a still-unnamed El Cerrito.

These were some of the historical cu-

riosities unveiled Sunday at El Cerrito History Day, proof the city is more distinctive than its nickname, "City of Homes," might suggest. The event, sponsored by Celebrating Culture & Community at the El Cerrito Veterans Hall, also featured speakers on the history of the city's Chinese, black and Portuguese communities. Speakers also paid tribute to the area's Ohlone Indian past.

"El Cerrito is widely perceived as predominantly white and middle class," said L. Eve Armentrout Ma, founder and director of the nonprofit Celebrating Culture & Community. "The perception is not all that accurate."

City Councilman Mark Friedman

added that El Cerrito history, as traditionally written, has been "the history of white people."

Ma, a lawyer and retired history professor at Mills College in Oakland and at Cal State Hayward, founded her organization in 1997 "to celebrate and showcase the cultural diversity of the San Francisco Bay Area, with a special focus on West Contra Costa County," she said in a mission statement.

There was another reason. "I'm tired of people thinking the world ends at the Berkeley border," she said. "This area has become uncommonly

See HISTORY, Page A11

Bone-marrow drive for teacher set for Dec. 15

Albany Middle School teacher Susan Butsch continues her brave fight against cancer boosted by news that several generous individuals have already stepped forward to help her beat the dreaded disease. (See last week's Journal.)

However, much more help is needed to help find a match for Butsch so she can have a life-saving bone-marrow transplant.

Teachers, parents and members of AMS staff have combined efforts and organized a bone-marrow drive for Butsch on Dec. 15, from 3-7 p.m. at the Albany Middle School library on Brighton Av-

enue.

Butsch, a long-time Albany teacher and the mother of a 7-year-old boy, has been unable to find a match to her bone-marrow type, a crucial quotient in her struggle to overcome a very aggressive case of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Each volunteer will follow a simple process that involves having two blood samples drawn, each of which will be tested and typed by characteristics.

The results of the tests will be posted on a national database list and would only be called to donate bone marrow only if there is an individual that needs

MAKING A DONATION

■ Financial donations to help underwrite the costs of donors who cannot afford the test can be sent to The AMS Susan Butsch Fund, 1259 Brighton Ave., Albany, CA. 94706.

Please make checks payable to the National Marrow Donor Program.

■ To make arrangements to register, or to make a donation to this crucial drive, please call 558-3614.

Donations, including the costs of the test, are tax deductible.

See GIFT, Page A11

Solano starts season salute

By James Carter

Santa Claus teamed up with a toy soldier mime Dec. 2 to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season on Solano Avenue.

Merchants up and down the avenue have decorated their shops and restaurants with a cascade of sparkling lights this year. Santa Claus was so endeared by the festive setting that he set up a shop of his own on the avenue four days a week, he said, so children can whisper in his ear while lights flash, shutters snap and parents step back and smile.

Meanwhile outside, a toy soldier mime fashioned giraffes from balloons then strutted stiffly about, saluting young people and old alike with arched eyebrows and an ear-to-ear grin. Through a com-

See SOLANO, Page A10

INDEX

Calendar	Page C5
Crossword	Page C11
Martin Snapp	Page A5
Opinion	Page A4
School Watch	Page A12

HOLIDAY PERFORMERS

Saturday, Dec. 11, 12-2 p.m., at By Hand—Celtic Harpist Trish NiGabhain, (strolling) Tom Collins, a Dickensian Character; 2-4 p.m. at Andronico's—BHS Pep Band

Sunday, Dec. 12 12-2 p.m., at Berkeley Bakery—Albany Adult School Big Band and Chorus

Saturday, Dec. 18, 12-2 p.m., at Half Price Books—Reverend Rabia, 12-2 p.m., (strolling) Tom Collins, a Dickensian Character; 2-4 p.m., at Andronico's—Frog Legs Cajun Holiday Music; 2-4 p.m., at Grace Baking—Albany Jazz Chorus; 2-4 p.m., (strolling) Sun Choir; 4-6 p.m., (strolling) Toy Soldier, Berkeley Bakery to Bears & Baubles

Sunday, Dec. 19, 12-2 p.m., at Berkeley Bakery—Albany Adult School Big Band and Chorus; 12-2 p.m., at No Sweat—Berkeley Community Chamber Chorus; 2-4 p.m., at Albany Art Gallery—Albany Jazz Chorus; 4-6 p.m. at By Hand—(strolling) Toy Soldier to Starbucks



STEVE MASLANKA

HOLIDAY VILLAGE headquarters on Solano Avenue was the scene last Saturday when Min Sala, 9, of Albany, visited Santa Claus, who had candy canes hidden behind his back.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Letters to Santa

Children can bring in their letters to Santa and the North Pole and place them in the large Santa Mailbox located at the Albany Library and Community Center Complex at 1249 Marin Ave. in the Recreation and Community Services Department Office. Please enclose the child's name and address with the letter. Child will receive a personalized response from Santa at the North Pole.

Pet adoptions

The Pet Rescue Project conducted by Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation will be holding dog and cat adoptions and educational programs on Saturday at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Sierra Club meeting

The December Sierra Club meeting is a holiday party on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church Makamie Hall 545 Ashbury St., El Cerrito. Come meet new and old friends at the West Contra Costa County Group's annual winter celebration. The program for the night is the West County Group and its members. You are welcome to bring snacks and nonalcoholic drinks to enliven the celebration. Do you have a few slides that would interest your fellow environmentalists? Bring them along. Questions? Call Pat Larsen at 510-236-1751.

Family violence talk

The League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville is holding a public discussion on family violence on

Thursday, Dec. 16, noon-1:30 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Public Library, Marin and Masonic avenues with representatives from Berkeley's Family Violence Law Center. Speakers Cheri Allison, legal director and Susana Palma-Aguilar, volunteer coordinator, will talk about the services provided by the center. These include getting restraining orders for abused women, offering anti-violence education in the community and sponsoring support groups for battered women, in both English and Spanish languages. League and community members are invited to bring a bag lunch. Light refreshments will be served.

Computer learning open house

BCS, Center for Computer Learning, will be hosting a Holiday Open House Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 1700 Solano Ave., Suite A (cross street Tulare). BCS offers a variety of basic beginning and intermediate hands-on computer classes for all age groups, including seniors and children. For information, call 526-5666.

Genetic engineering

On Dec. 12 the Bay Area Resistance Against Genetic Engineering (BayRAGE) is holding a community teach-in and grocery store tour at noon, 2 p.m., or 4 p.m. at the Berkeley Bowl Marketplace, 2020 Oregon (and Shattuck). Along with a discussion on the introduction of genetically engineered organisms into the food supply there will be tours through Berkeley Bowl to identify currently suspected foods and discuss alternatives. Information and strategizing sessions on the possible

effects of this new technology will take place throughout the day. For more information, call the BayRAGE voicemail, 510-594-4000, ext. 144.

Holiday pancake event

A Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Toy Drive will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9-10 a.m. in El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. Tickets are \$6 per person. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, plus Sparky the Dog. Call 215-4377 for reservations.

Gallery Showcase

The public is invited to view the current exhibit at the Gallery Showcase located at the Albany Community Center Library Complex, 1249 Marin Ave. in the Albany Recreation and Community Services Department office. The current show features the ceramic works of artist, Patricia O'Neil. O'Neil, who studied with Richard Akers, is a native Californian who currently resides in Crockett, and devotes much of her time to her art. The show will be up through Dec. 12 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Picture Poems

"Picture Poems" by Sharyl Gates is on exhibit Dec. 13 through Jan. 15 at Albany Community Center located at 1249 Marin Ave. Sharyl Gates, artist, poet, and illustrator, will have 3-foot and 4-foot acrylic on canvas "words and painting" and poetic pieces in show-case created published and present, 1985-1999. For more information or to be on mailing list for future exhibits, phone or fax 527-9374, or write to P.O. Box 2082, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Neighbors join in chase of theft suspect

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — At about 5 p.m. on Dec. 2, a woman entered her house on the 600 block of San Gabriel Avenue and discovered it occupied by a juvenile thief. She left the house and went to a neighbor's to call police. When she saw the youth departing her house she chased him while yelling for neighbors to call police. Officers responded to the 911 calls and they found several neighbors had joined the pursuit. Officers apprehended the 16-year-old Albany boy several blocks from the woman's home. He was arrested, cited and transported to Juvenile Hall.

On the morning of Nov. 28, a resident on the 600 block of Jackson Street reported that during the night thieves stole a potted plant from her front porch. There were no witnesses.

On the night of Nov. 28, a resident on the 800 block of Jackson Street returned home at about 10 p.m. and found that prowlers had been in her house and created a mess. There were no witnesses.

On the morning of Nov. 29, a business owner on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that over the weekend thieves stole a 20-foot-long banner that was in front of his business. There were no witnesses.

At about 2 p.m. on Nov. 29, a resident on the 700 block of Taft Street reported that she had been gone about two hours and when she returned home she discovered that thieves had kicked in her front door and stole various items. There were no witnesses.

On the evening of Nov. 29, a resident on the 1000 block of Masonic Avenue reported that thieves had broken into his house and stole various items. He believed he knew who the thief might be and officers are investigating.

On the night of Nov. 29, a resident on the 1000 block of Peralta Avenue reported that during the day thieves had broken into his home and stolen items. There were no witnesses.

On the morning of Dec. 1, officers responded to the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a man going through the garbage near the veterinary building and unzipping his pants when people walked by. Officers contacted the 39-year-old man and found that he had outstanding warrants from Oakland totaling \$3,000. He was arrested, cited and transported to the Berkeley jail.

On the evening of Dec. 1, a resident on the 500 block of Pierce Street reported that thieves had stolen his tan colored '76 Plymouth Volare while it was parked on the east side of the street. There were no witnesses.

On the night of Dec. 3, a resident on the 500 block of Pierce Street reported that during the day thieves had stolen her bicycle that had been locked in the parking garage. There were no witnesses.

On the night of Dec. 3, residents, in two separate incidences, parked their cars on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue and returned to find the tires flattened. There were no witnesses to either incident.

At about 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 4,

POLICE REPORT

officers contacted a 16-year-old boy who was on the 1000 block of Peralta Avenue and reported that during the day thieves had broken into his home and stolen items. He was arrested, cited and transported to the Berkeley jail.

On Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. officers received several calls about subjects throwing jump balls at the block of Pierce Street. Officers responded several times but were unable to locate the subjects. Finally, officers reported that they had located juvenile vandals and that they handle it internally.

On the morning of Dec. 1, an incident on the 800 block of Jackson Avenue reported that during the night thieves had stolen a bicycle and his bike. There were no witnesses.

During the week of Dec. 1, officers towed two cars, received 15 false alarms, attempted to locate lost or deceased animals, and people who were locked out of their house or car and reported reports of a barking dog.

In the domestic arena, officers responded to 15 reports of disturbances and 96 Citations. Officers stopped 109 vehicles, issued citations and 48 warnings.

Albany firefighters responded to two fire calls and several medical emergencies.

IN BRIEF

Christmas toy drive

El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Ave., is teaming with the Richmond/El Cerrito Fire Department for the annual Christmas Toys drive through Dec. 23.

You can make the holiday special for the less fortunate by donating new, unwrapped toys at any of the following locations: any El Cerrito or Richmond fire House; County Fire House; Target Store of El Cerrito (Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.); or at El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Ave. (off Potrero, near the St. John's Senior Center). Monetary donations will also be accepted. Checks should be made payable to the Richmond/El Cerrito Fire Department.

Those who donate a toy at El Cerrito Royale will be given a raffle ticket for every toy they bring in. Five holiday turkeys or hams will be awarded to the lucky ticket holders.

If you would like to donate a toy or get more information about this program call George Phifer at El Cerrito Royale, 234-5200.

Senior Winter Ball

The city of Richmond will hold its Gala Millennium Senior Winter Ball on Saturday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.-11 p.m. in the Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 2544 Barrett Ave.

The ball is co-sponsored by the Richmond Commission on Aging and the Richmond Recreation and Parks Department to celebrate the historic past and cultural diversity of West County. This not-for-profit social event is supported by our business community, making the cost of admission a very affordable \$10 per person.

Frankie James and his 17-piece Big Swing Band will play all the favorites of the 1940's for your listening and dancing pleasure. Free delicious hors d'oeuvres will be served and a no-host bar will be provided by the Malvern/Wilson Alumni Association.

Tickets are available at Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 3925 Macdonald Ave.; Richmond Senior Center, 2525 Macdonald Ave.; and San Pablo Senior Center, 1934 Church Lane.

To reserve a table for 10 people call Ruth Thoms at 307-8086.

Julian White concert

Pianist Julian White, known internationally as a recitalist, composer, and



THE MERRY BAND of volunteers, from left to right, Christina Van Horn, Paula Gray, John Kartachek, Roxanne and Jim Wiley, Ruby McDaniel and Dana Milner. Missing from photo John Mestas and Lis Bell.

Christmas lights on the Avenue

By Roxanne Wiley

On Nov. 27, a band of merry volunteers, pictured above, strung Christmas lights on 48 lampposts on lower Solano.

The Chamber of Commerce donated the lights and rounded up the volunteers representing various businesses and organizations. The electricity is being donated by our fair city.

Why you ask on lower Solano and not above Masonic? The street renovation caused this part of Solano to suffer some loss of business for the better part of 1998 and the Chamber thought twinkling lights might churn up deserved interest.

Last Christmas the city gave businesses little twinkling lights for their windows and this lamp decoration is just an extension of that good will.

We found an interesting human failing however, some of our younger humans find the lights ir-

resistible and have to pluck one or two lights form the string therefore rendering the string to be half lit.

I will be providing extra light bulbs along the blocks so we can repair the damage but I'm afraid some lampposts may remain half lit.

Overall, the street looks mahvalous.

Santa's Village

The vacant storefronts at 1228 Solano will house Santa's Village, where Santa will appear on Thursdays and Fridays from 5-8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from noon-5 p.m. starting Dec. 3 and running until the Dec. 23.

There will also be decorated Christmas trees, puppies and kittens for adoption and a food barrel and a barrel for Toys for Tots. (Toys for Tots is an annual toy drive sponsored by the Marine Corps, which provides toys to kids who might not otherwise receive them). Hope to see you there!

ALBANY CHAMBER

Play it Again Toys

Speaking of Toys for Tots, if you add a toy for Toys for Tots to your purchase total by Sunday, Dec. 19 you will receive a 10 percent purchase discount one time, anytime in the year 2000.

That's Play It Again Toys, 1170 Solano Ave., Tuesday-Saturday, 10:53-30, and Sunday (12, 19, 12-4) Neato!

Christmas Mixer

The annual Christmas Mixer will be at the Mechanics Bank, 801 San Pablo Ave. in Albany on Dec. 15, from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

We are asking that in the mood of good will and the end of the century, that you and your guests bring canned food for our Christmas basket to go to an organization that will put our donations to good use.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the El Cerrito police report is not available this week.

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'Nutcracker' performers

YOUNG DANCERS from Albany and Kensington, including Kakiagi, 12; Daisy Phillips, 16; and Chloe Smith 15 (here in the scene of magical dolls) will perform in the Berkeley Ballet Theatre production of "The Nutcracker Suite," through Dec. 19 at the Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley.

master teacher, is giving a concert at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Rd. in Kensington, on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

The program includes "Sonata No. 3" by Chopin, "Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue" by Bach, "Rondo in A Minor" by Mozart, and other works.

White has recently completed a recording of Brahms' late piano works. His own compositions have

been performed through the The California Music Teachers Association has honored him with Teacher of the Year award. He has won recognition as one of the nation's best piano teachers. His studio is in Kensington.

Suggested donations are \$10 general, \$10 student/senior, \$10 525-0302.

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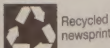
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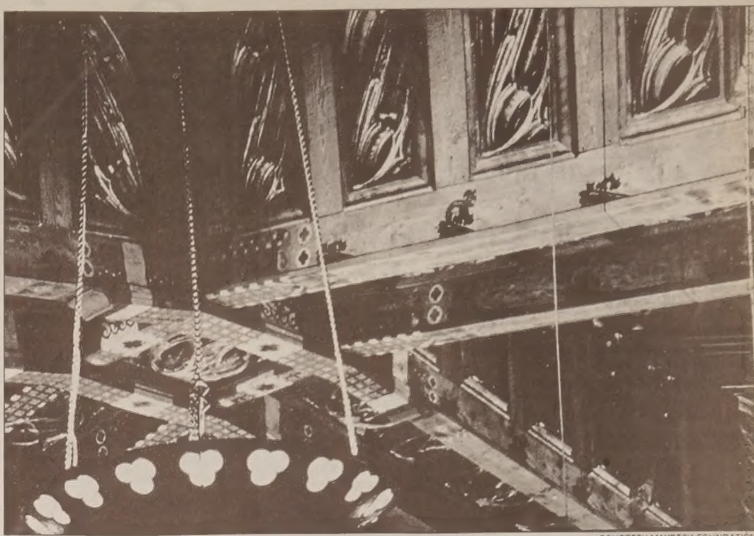
By J.R. Deaton

Marquand spoke extensively about one particularly impressive jewel in the jewel box church in his talk last week—the ceiling of the auditorium.

COURTESY MAYBECK FOUNDATION
part of the interior design.

THE CEILING'S structural framework is a key part of the interior design.

tion to wander into a spacious, affluent upper world" as it does in many other Christian churches, he added. "Structure, in other words, dominates the space and our imaginations."



SOME OF the intricate ceiling design details.

Marquand also gave people a tour of the rest of the church before his lecture. Highlights were the homey Fireplace Room and the long and expansive Sunday School, designed by Maybeck and Henry Gutttersen in

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Berkeley, however, is considered Maybeck's masterpiece. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects in 1951. He died in Berkeley in 1957.

The subcommittee interviewed several architects for the job and prayed to God, asking which one would be the "most receptive to divine guidance," Marquand told his audience. Two weeks later, they returned to Maybeck's office. "God," they said, had led them to Bernard Maybeck."

The Maybeck Foundation, which has no affiliation with the Church of Christ, Scientist, is located at 2140 Shattuck Ave., No. 408, Berkeley, Calif. 94704. Call 510-845-7714; e-mail Executive Director William Marquand at billm@maybeck.org. Free architectural tours of the church at 2619 Dwight Way are offered at 12:15 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month. Call 510-845-7199 for information.

By Kate Darby Rauch

In recent months, a group of students living at the San Pablo Avenue apartment complex has protested to knock down and replace the 500 units built in the 1960s. The move is unnecessary because the buildings are in reasonably good shape, it said. The 920-unit complex is undergoing a \$55 million renovation, with townhouses replacing older buildings. Initial plans called for all apartments to be rebuilt. Monthly rent

Students recently received a letter from Vice Chancellor Harry LeGrande, the campus housing chief, on Berdahl's behalf, saying such a study would be conducted and should be finished by spring. The university said previously it made financial sense to replace Section B now before construction costs increase.

LeGrande wasn't available for comment. But his letter dated Tuesday said the university would hire consultants

Some of the University Village apartments being replaced were built during World War II to house war workers. Students do not object to the demolition of these units, which have had numerous maintenance problems. Section B housing was built later for veterans.

Virginia went to Twin Falls High

Virginia Prud'homme was devoted to her family, a tireless worker in her community for many worthwhile social causes and a faithful devoted servant to her church, Northminster Presbyterian Church, for some 35 years. She will long be remembered by all who knew and worked with her as a very positive, cheerful person who always saw the

Donations in her memory may be made to Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530; or to The Alzheimer's Association, 910 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1100, Chicago, Ill. 60611-1676. Attn.: Development Dept.; or to American Society of Landscape Architects, 636 Eye St., NW, Washington D.C. 20001-3736; or to California Horticultural Society, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

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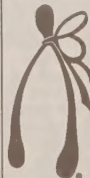
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Opinion

VIEWPOINT

Norman La Force's parting remarks

The following is the text of remarks made by outgoing City Councilman Norman La Force at Monday's council session:

Now that I have joined the Loyal Order of the Has-beens, I am supposed to say something about my past eight years on the City Council. I am confident that there are a few people in town who are very happy to see this day. I should know—I am one of them. While I will miss the police car rolling up to my house with my packet on Thursday night, I welcome the opportunity to let others take their hand at setting city policy. I have done my best, but all good things must come to an end.

It's customary at this time to reflect on one's past record. Nothing is more tiresome than a political Has-been bragging about past accomplishments. So let me tackle this duty in another way.

I ran for City Council after spending a year and a half on Project Listen learning about city issues. I felt that I should put that knowledge to some practical use for the benefit of the city. I came to the council with a firm set of principles to guide me. How well I stuck to them is up to residents to determine.

One of those principles is that the true test of political leadership is how well leaders help those who are the least able and least fortunate.

The Albertsons of the world will always be able to hire the best talent to advance their goals, and those who have corporate CEOs write letters on their behalf will be heard. But those on the lowest rungs of society have no voice unless we, the elected representatives, speak for them.

This is all the more poignant at this time of the year, and especially tonight on the feast day of St. Nicholas. We took a small step in meeting those needs with the Rubicon Project. The city's support for this was critical. Their were those who opposed it because in the economic calculus the city gained nothing financially. But doing that project meant that a few disabled and HIV positive homeless people had decent shelter. I just wished we could have done more.

Another principle is that political leaders must work to restore and protect our environment. We cannot afford to see it deteriorate any further.

Every time I go by Poinsett Park and see the kids playing in the restored creek there, I feel especially happy, and I hope that the continued interest in creek restoration that I have had some hand in fostering in the city will bear further fruit with more restored creek habitats. I also hope that the city's successful recycling program is expanded even more.

Another principle I brought with me was that political leaders must meet needs of the community. We cannot recreate the past, but must plan for the future.

I worked hard to have us rebuild our city facilities in ways that are future oriented. I support the Park and Pool rebuild measure. I hope that we can develop other recreational facilities like multipurpose fields since we must meet those needs if we want to attract families to this community. I hope we can remain a leader in senior programs by identifying future needs for seniors.

Perhaps most critical is meeting the future affordable housing needs of seniors and families with children. I remain convinced that the fu-

ture economic vitality of El Cerrito is directly tied to how well we meet those needs. There is talk at the state and federal level of offering affordable housing units to teachers who live in the community where they teach. The starting salary for teachers in our school district qualifies them for low income affordable housing. I think we would attract the best of the new teachers by developing such a program in El Cerrito with our school district. The economic and publicity gain for the city would be tremendous.

Finally, government must be able to provide for the most cost-effective delivery of its services.

As I have said many times to the city staff, the city has to work for its residents. This means fiscal responsibility. Fiscal responsibility means watching our tax dollars.

When I came on the council, I made a firm commitment to build up our city reserve and am gratified that we meet our target number of 10 percent of the budget a year earlier than planned and as I leave office have a reserve that is double our target. While I realize the next council will have the enjoyment I cannot share of spending some of that, I urge them to watch that reserve carefully.

Fiscal responsibility also means operating in good faith with our employees by bargaining with them openly and fairly and by providing them with fair compensation.

I think we made some progress on this since we were able to get employee salaries and wages to our goal of the median for comparable communities and had the full support of the employees when we had to freeze salaries and wages in the wake of the state's tax grabs. We also found ways to do more with less, such as with the tree trimming program.

None of what I did could have been accomplished without the hard work of our employees and the leadership that our management team has shown over the years.

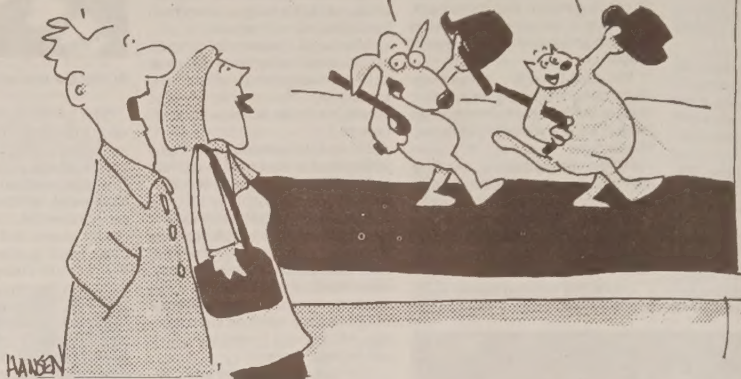
I cannot thank all of them here tonight, but do want to express my appreciation to those upper level managers with whom I interacted the most, and by so doing express my appreciation to all our employees.

Thanks: To you Gary (Pokorny) for being an excellent city manager and for being so active in the community on so many projects. Our community spirit is due in good part to you; To you Howard (Stern) for your ability to keep us out of legal trouble with your wise council; To you Linda (Giddings) for your warmth and cheery disposition, we should have you market the city to attract more business and people to the city; To you Gerry (Raycraft) for your hard work and magic in providing more services with less staff and money; To you Elise (Tierney) for your economic acumen, that is so essential for your job in community economic development; To you Ellen (Paasch) for the excellent senior program you run; To you Monica (Kortz) for the wonderful recreation and after school program we have; And to you Becky (Dwordikin) for the model recycling program we have.

Finally, I thank the voters for giving me the honor and privilege of serving them. I know I could not please all the people all the time, but I hope people found that they knew where I stood on the issues and why, that I always kept my word, and that what they saw was what they got. I wish the new council good luck. It's been a slice!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mystery achievement so hard to find

A rather mystifying event occurred at the El Cerrito City Council meeting on Nov. 22. An amendment was passed to the pool and park bond issue. This, you could say, is not unusual. However, the amendment's presentation was most unusual.

There was no notice on the agenda regarding this amendment. There was no staff report regarding its impact on city services.

There was no staff report on anything related to this amendment. There was no written information for the public. There was no announcement to the audience about a pending amendment.

Several people, who seemed to have some inside information, spoke of matters that seemed unrelated to the night's agenda and to the pool and park bond issue.

When the council was questioned about the meaning of this rather bewildering occurrence, the mayor said she would address that question later.

When the time for public statements ended, the mayor provided the following explanation for what was occurring. She had written a letter that was published in the newspaper and that letter described her thoughts on "this issue." This was her concise and thorough explanation for those of us who had no "inside information." Needless to say, many of us in the audience still did not know the substance of "this issue."

The council then discussed the fact that they had a secret memo from the city attorney and proceeded to propose, vote and adopt an amendment to the bond issue.

The reason for passing this amendment given by the mayor, and council members Friedman and Damon, was the fact that the group requesting the amendment, The Citizens Alliance, would not support the bond issue without this amendment.

Bizarrely, the mayor's present procedures require a citizen wishing to be informed and able to comment on pending City Council actions, to not only read the agenda for the evening, but carefully peruse the Letters to the Editor columns.

Sharlene Loretz
El Cerrito

FDA has not determined food labeling to be necessary

James Carter reported (Nov. 26) on the upcoming FDA meetings on genetically engineered foods. His article noted—and questioned—the FDA policy that does not require the labeling of genetically engineered foods.

It is important to note that the FDA policy is science-based, consistent with traditional FDA practice that has supported our nutritious and healthy food supply, and designed to protect the general public, not to serve any political special-interest groups.

One reason the FDA is holding these meetings is to inform the public of its sound procedures.

Although a food need not be labeled solely to recognize that genetic engineering was used in its production, should a food contain a component with a potential health impact, it would have to be labeled.

Today all Ag Biotech companies consult with the FDA prior to first sale of any newly engineered crop, to determine whether the resulting food's composition warrants labeling. After over 35 such consultations with many different companies, the FDA has not deemed labeling necessary, as these companies work to ensure that engineered foods are similar to foods generated using the methods of the past 50 years.

Let's remember that required labeling can be a political tool, rather than a practical tool for safety. Who can resist concluding that a label implies a safety concern? As a concerned scientist engaged in crop improvement through genetic engineering, I oppose the labeling movement, which is largely politically-motivated, rather than safety-motivated.

Genetic engineering of foods offers an important tool for improved agriculture now and in the future, here and abroad. This technology is already delivering on its promise of a reduced pesticide burden on the environment, and it will provide greater benefits in the future. Let's not condemn this technology to the dustbin of history by acquiescing to a political agenda.

Those who want, for whatever reason, not to eat foods produced through genetic engineering, can work to secure appropriate voluntary labels for such foods. I encourage them

to do so. As consumers, let's continue to rely on FDA's science-based oversight of our food supply.

Neal Guterman
Oakland

Historic site deserves consideration

I am writing regarding the archaeological site located in the vicinity of Spenger's parking lot, which is to be developed sometime in the future, most likely with a parking structure as I understand it.

I would like to go on record as supporting the preservation of a large portion of the archaeological site as open space/park, with interpretive displays.

In addition, a substantive archaeological investigation prior to any ground-disturbing activities in the affected area should be conducted.

Any decisions involving the future of the site should also involve members of the local Native American community and if buried remains are found, the developer should comply with the provisions of California Public Resources 5090.

I believe also that the developer will need to prepare an EIR if his proposal causes substantial damage to the site, which is almost certainly eligible for the California Register of Historic Places.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires the preparation of an EIR when a project causes such significant effect to a historic property. This would ensure the public an opportunity to participate in decision-making regarding the site's future.

We need only to look to the case of the shellmound in the city of Emeryville to learn many lessons. That site is now essentially gone due to development. No plans were made in advance of construction of the development.

Discoveries of approximately 120 Indian burials have been made and the Native American community has been deeply offended by the lack of advance planning. Professional archaeologists have also been dismayed by Emeryville's cavalier attitude towards preservation of the site. Emeryville failed to plan for such finds during the environmental review process and I am sure it now regrets its lack of foresight because of increased project costs.

Mara Meland

To toot or not to toot

"Tell Jane I'll pick her up in about 20 minutes," I said to my friend Freddi. It was a Saturday afternoon and we were going out to lunch.

I didn't know Jane, not really. We had been at meetings together but had never exchanged more than a few words. Freddi wanted us to get to know each other. She was sure that we'd love each other. That we had a lot in common. That we might be soul mates.

Since I live the furthest from the

restaurant, I was driving.

"Tell her I'll just toot my horn when I get there," I added.

There was a dead silence at the other end of the phone.

"Don't toot," Freddi finally said. "Jane's warm, funny and loves animals. She even talks for her dog just like we do. But don't toot. She's not the kind of person you toot for."

Don't toot? How was Jane going to become my good friend if she was the kind of person you don't toot for?



RONNIE CAPLANE

Under Construction

Tooting was a measure of friendship, a way of being familiar, an intimacy.

I toot for all my friends and expect them to do the same for me. Acquaintances, people I'm not sure about, get the go to the front door and ring the bell treatment.

I'm not lazy, just practical. Turn-

ing off the engine, unfastening my seatbelt, getting out of the car and walking to the front door seems excessive, particularly when the whole thing will only have to be done again in reverse. I like to think of the car horn as a doorbell, just more conveniently located.

And I have standards, like never tooting before 8 a.m. on weekdays, 9:30 a.m. on weekends, or after 9:15 p.m. any night. I never toot for anyone over 75, no matter how good a friend they are. Then there's the two-toot rule. Although one polite little tap on the horn usually does the

trick, I never toot more than twice. If two toots don't work, I use the cell phone in my car to call whomever I'm waiting for, just to let them know I'm there.

I don't blare. I don't lean on the horn or do anything to disturb the neighbors. That's a high school thing.

Freddi said that at her high school each of the girls' clubs had its own special club honk. She grew up in Los Angeles. I imagined her sitting in a convertible, on her way to the beach, blaring out two longs and two shorts in front of a friend's house. I grew up in Cleveland. We didn't

have clubs, convertibles, honked honks or beaches. We tooted or went to the front door and screamed "Oh Roooooowooooo!" Iiiiiiii.....eeeeeeeeeeeee. I was the right person answered the phone. But boys never tooted. I was clearly not if they were picking for a date. That was dangerous according to my mother. Without seeing his face, how do you know the guy in the car driveway was really your date? He could be a rapist or a murderer.

See CAPLANE, Page 10

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"... were left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

A leader for the ages

Making up Top 10 lists or Most Important lists is fatuous beyond belief, but I'm no better than the next guy. As the millennium draws to a close, I've been thinking about who was the greatest person of the last 1,000 years.

And what an incredible cast of characters to choose from! Joan of Arc, William Shakespeare, Mahatma Gandhi, St. Francis of Assisi, Isaac Newton, Susan B. Anthony, Abraham Lincoln, Leonardo DaVinci, Martin Luther King and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, to name just a few.

But for me, the choice is easy. There's one person whom I revere above all others, and I'd give anything I could be like him—motivated solely by unselfish feelings of love, duty and honor. His name: George Washington.

You might find this a curious choice, because Washington has become a remote figure, somehow distant from us than even his contemporaries like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. For most people, he's just the guy with the pursed lips staring at us from the dollar bill.

But it wasn't so long ago that Washington was a very, very big deal. Indeed. The mere mention of his name would bring tears to grown men's eyes (as it still does to mine). And generations of little kids grew idolizing him, the way today's kids idolize Michael Jordan.

His contemporaries, like Alexander Hamilton, Jefferson and Franklin, idolized him, too. These guys, who were anything but modest about their own abilities, looked to Washington as the greatest of them all.

Jefferson, who opposed many of Washington's policies, still called him "every sense of the words, a good, wise and great man." Franklin called him "my friend, and the friend of my country." And Light Horse Harry Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee, called him "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen." They chose him to lead the army. They chose him to preside over the constitutional convention. They chose him to be the first president. They named the nation's capital after him. They called him "Father of the Country," even in his own lifetime.

Why? Well, there were plenty of reasons to look up to him. (Literally. Mount-2, he towered over all of them except Jefferson.)

First was his undeniable natural leadership. Some people have it and some people don't, and Washington had it in spades. How do else you

think he kept that bedraggled little army of his together and defeated the greatest superpower in the world?

It was also a question of character. To state it baldly, they knew he was a better person than they were. That story about the cherry tree may be bogus, but its underlying message about Washington's honesty was true enough.

Jefferson and Hamilton were habitual womanizers. (Jefferson even slept with his slaves, which is closer to rape than consensual sex.) Franklin was a vindictive father who went out of his way to make sure that his son, William, who stayed loyal to Britain, rotted in jail for the duration of the war.

Washington, on the other hand, was a loving, faithful husband to Martha and a doting father to her two children, Jackie and Patsy, and (after Jackie and Patsy's untimely deaths) to Martha's grandchildren, Nelly and Washy, whom he brought up as his own.

And while Jefferson and the others were playing armchair general while living in comfort and safety back in Philadelphia, Washington was freezing and bleeding with the troops on the out in the field.

After the war, while others schemed and doublecrossed and generally acted like the politicians they were, he was guided by only two principles: the public good and his private honor.

He was even kind to animals. Cruelty of any sort disgusted him, and he adored his two favorite dogs, whom he named "True Love" and "Sweetlips." (Try imagining the Father of the Country down on his hands and knees, letting some dog slobber all over his face while he coos, "Is this my little Sweetlips?")

And on the most important moral issue of the day—slavery—Washington still looks better than the rest of them. Yes, he had slaves. (Although he didn't buy them; they came with Martha in her dowry.) Moreover, he—alone among his contemporaries—freed his slaves in his will. He also set up trust funds for them, so they wouldn't be left high and dry after he was gone.

Nowadays, you hear a lot of historians trying to justify the slaveholding of some of the founding fathers by saying they didn't know any better. But it's not true. The hypocrisy was apparent, even at the time. In London, Samuel Johnson, on being told about the Declaration of Independence, quipped, "Isn't it odd that the loudest yelps for freedom come from the drivers of ne-



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

groes?"

Washington knew better, too. And, typically, he put his convictions into practice.

But the main reason Franklin, Jefferson and the rest respected him was because they were pleasantly flabbergasted when he didn't turn out to be a tyrant. And they weren't the only ones. Even his old nemesis, George III, when told that Washington had voluntarily given up command of the army, gasped in disbelief, "Why, he must be the greatest man in the world!"

These men, on both sides of the Atlantic, knew from their reading of history how easy it is for someone to start out as a liberator but end up as a despot.

Think of it: Every other conqueror in history—Alexander, Caesar, Cromwell, Napoleon, Mao—started out with good intentions but eventually succumbed to the dark side of the Force. (Or, if you're a Tolkien fan, they were seduced by the Ring of Power.)

But not Washington. He alone refused.

The crisis came right after the war. The soldiers had been fighting and dying without pay for six long years, trusting Congress' promise that they'd get their money when it was all over. But in February, 1783, the Congress reneged on that promise.

The same thing had happened about 100 years before in England, during the English Civil War. That time, the army responded by marching on London and throwing out the parliament. And England was under the heel of a military dictatorship for the next 20 years.

There were a lot of senior officers in the American army who wanted to do the same thing. They hatched a plan to march on the capital at Philadelphia, arrest the Congress, and install Washington as a military dictator, if he was willing. If he wasn't willing, they were prepared to seize the government anyway—over his dead body, if necessary. They called a secret meeting to put the final touches on the plot.

But Washington got wind of the meeting, and he surprised them all by crashing it. He walked up to the podium and politely asked for permission to speak, knowing that they couldn't deny their old commander-

See EVENTS, Page A8



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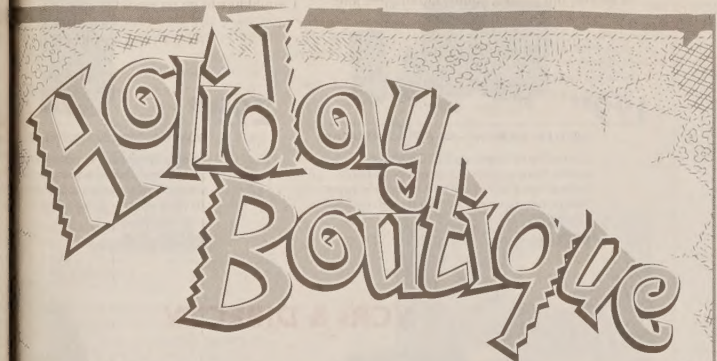
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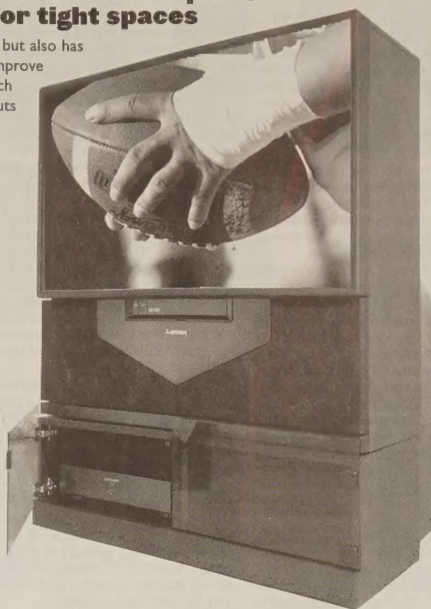
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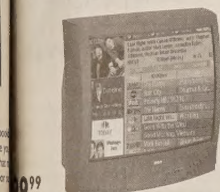
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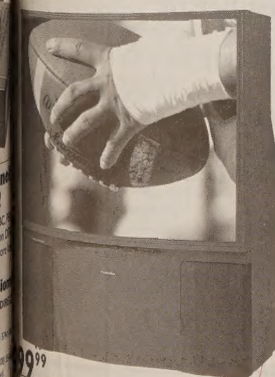
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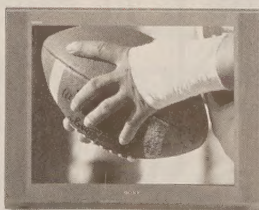
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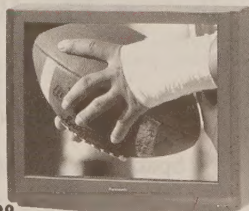
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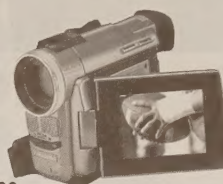


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ALBANY RESIDENTS Michelle and Preston Jordan, left, were on the East Bay Moms panel with Raissa Lerner, Roberta Streimer and Rachel Murray.

Parents share strategies for balancing work, home responsibilities

By Christina Engelbrecht

In three months, Shalva Sorani will give birth to her second child. She recently transitioned from working part-time to full-time and is in negotiations with her boss to find an arrangement that accommodates both career and motherhood.

Kathryn Rile's 5-year-old daughter started kindergarten this year and Rile has launched a home-based design business to help earn family income so her husband can spend less time at work and more time at home.

These women were part of a gathering of working and stay-at-home moms and dads who attended the East Bay Moms Parent Career Forum at Piedmont Gardens in Oakland last month, seeking alternatives to the traditional balance of career and home, where usually one or both get short-changed. They benefited from the experience of five panelists who shared how, with a little bit of creativity and flair, it is possible to have it all at home and in the workplace.

The forum was something East Bay Mom and career counselor Sherry Berman thought new parents needed after her own experience of becoming a mom this past year.

"My little boy just turned 1 on Saturday, and I know how difficult it is to return to work after being a mom. Parents want their jobs to be different somehow—less travel, shorter hours, don't want to work until 9 or midnight," Berman said.

Albany couple Michelle and Preston Jordan are 16 months into parenthood and have a working arrangement where each puts in a 24-hour work week on alternating schedules of staying at home with their baby and going to work. Michelle handles scheduling and management for a corporate training organization. Preston is a geologist at Lawrence Berkeley Lab.

"I wanted to share parenting duties equally because I wanted to be a primary parent. That's not something my dad had. I also didn't think it was fair for Michelle to have to give up her career," Preston told the gathering.

"We didn't want to do day care, we wanted to share the care. But we had to plan it for years and go to our bosses before our son was even born. We also decided to follow the simplicity movement of less money for more time. We cut our income, but we've also never been happier," said Michelle.

The Jordans told an obviously intrigued audience the ways they have learned to show their bosses they have a full-time attitude with part-time hours by staying in constant communication with their bosses through phone calls, e-mails and memos. Surprisingly, both said their careers have actually taken off lately.

"When you go to work five hours, you're thrilled to see your baby and when you're taking care of your baby for five hours, you're thrilled to go to work. Ultimately with the variety, every day we have more energy to put into what we're doing," Michelle said.

California Deputy Attorney General

Raissa S. Lerner discussed how her career has been shaped by her family since she became pregnant with her first law clerk. She found that working with her bosses by letting them count their needs as well as hers for her home life. She also mentioned a three-quarters work schedule with the efficiency she has been able to get 40 hours worth of work in.

"The thing to remember is don't know what will happen, ask for it. None of these people verified this way. You just have to be in the classifieds," Lerner said.

"Working part-time is not necessarily a sacrifice career-wise. You can meet the needs of your family and still be respected by your employer," she shared.

Roberta Streimer discussed how she never liked to work, even in parenthood. Her goal was to make more money working full-time. The former corporate lawyer at Kaiser Permanente used her son's self-employed consultant position in strategic planning to create a meeting facilitator.

But first she learned to love herself when she initially worked part-time hours at Kaiser.

"Value is very important. When you see you give something of value, they are more accommodating down the line," she told the group.

When Streimer decided to go into business for herself, she worked about 50 percent of the time and made the same salary as when she worked full-time for 40 hours a month she had made full-time.

"And now every Wednesday I my red smock down at the preschool cooperative doing dirty art and on field trips with my son," Streimer said.

See MOMS, Page A11

Snapp

FROM PAGE A5

he'd just received from a member of Congress, but he didn't get past more than the first few words before he suddenly stopped.

He reached into his pocket and pulled out something they'd never ever seen wear before: a pair of eyeglasses. "Gentlemen," he said, "please permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray in the service of my country, but also blind."

Then, without another word, he put away his eyeglasses and slowly walked out the door. Those hardened war veterans dissolved in tears. The coup d'état was over before it began. And the United States did not become a banana republic.

Washington continued giving up power, over and over again, for the rest of his life. After being unanimously elected twice to the presidency (the only man to do so), he turned down a third term that could easily have been his, preferring to set a precedent by arranging a peaceful transition to his successor. Despite all the power that kept gravitating toward him, there was never a man who lusted after power less.

I never understood that until I visited his home, Mount Vernon, which is something I urge you to do.

When I was a kid, studying American history in school, I'd read about people coming up to Washington and saying, "George, please head the army" or "George, please run the Constitutional convention" or "George, please be our first president."

And he'd always reply something along the lines of "Gee, fellas, I really hate to leave Mount Vernon. But if you insist, well, OK." And I'd cynically say to myself, "Who does this guy think he's kidding?"

But the instant I laid eyes on Mount Vernon, I realized he wasn't kidding at all. Mount Vernon is the most gorgeous place on Earth. Every

time I visit — and I visit as often as I can — I'm filled with a glorious combination of exhilaration and serenity. If I lived there, wild horses couldn't drag me away.

And the beauty is that it reflects Washington's personality so perfectly, right down to the key to the Bastille that hangs in the hallway — a gift from the Marquis de Lafayette.

Mount Vernon is refined, but it's not fancy. Unlike Monticello, which looks like the aristocrat's mansion that it is, Mount Vernon is a simple farmer's house, albeit a very elegant one.

But as much as he loved Mount Vernon, Washington loved his country more. During the war, a British frigate sailed up the Potomac, threatening every home along the river with its big guns. Jefferson, who was governor of Virginia at the time, hastily sent the ship's captain a sizable bribe to spare Monticello.

Washington was up north at the time, but his caretaker sent a couple of barrels of rum to the ship's captain to induce him to spare Mount Vernon, too. When Washington heard about it, he was furious. "Better it should have been burned to the ground," he thundered, "than that any tribute should be paid to the tyrant!"

Washington died on Dec. 14, 1799, exactly 200 years ago this coming Tuesday. He'd caught a bad cold the day before, and he woke up in the middle of the night with difficulty breathing. Typically, he wouldn't let Martha get up and fetch the doctor, because he didn't want her to risk a chill getting out of bed.

The next day the doctor arrived and made matters worse. In those days, the main remedies were bleeding and enemas, both of which only served to further weaken the patient. He was slowly suffocating to death, and the doctors informed him that the end was near.

"Tis well," said Washington. "I die hard, but I am not afraid to go." In a few minutes he was gone.

After his death, Mount Vernon gradually deteriorated over the next few decades until it was reduced to an alarmingly dilapidated state. But it was saved from ruin in the nick of time by a group of women — namely, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, which was founded shortly before the Civil War by a patriot named Anne Pamela Cunningham.

They bought Mount Vernon from Washington's heirs and set about restoring it. Today, it looks just the way it was when Washington lived there, including his granddaughter Nelly's harspichord, which is in the same spot in the parlor where it was when she played for her doting "Grandpapa" every night after dinner. It's all subsidized by contributions from the public; not a penny of taxes goes into its upkeep.

Next week, Mount Vernon will observe the anniversary of the great man's death by recreating all the important events, including a full restaging of his funeral procession, complete with rituals of Washington's Masonic lodge. It may sound macabre, but how I wish I could be there!

We have so much for which to be grateful to Washington. But perhaps the most important is the example he set for us to live up to.

And we can do it. Washington was a human being, no different from you and me. He was no superhero or saint. What he did, we can do. All it takes is the will power.

Don't believe me? Here's Exhibit A: another man, still living, who in all the important details could be Washington reincarnate.

He has the same dignified manner — the same, for want of a better word, leadership quality — as Washington.

Caplane

FROM PAGE A4

waiting for you to leap into his car so he could whisk you away to some grisly fate. That has happened, my mother warned me.

Even if it was your date, honking bespoken of a major character flaw. Anyone who tooted for a date probably wouldn't know to open your car

door, order your meal at a restaurant or walk on the outside between you and the curb. Such men were not marriage material.

My husband isn't a tooter. He thinks it's rude. Maybe that's a guy thing. But if I can find true happiness with a man who doesn't toot, maybe I could have a friendship with a woman who doesn't toot. Maybe Jane and Joe know something I don't. Maybe they're more evolved.

I would have to think about that

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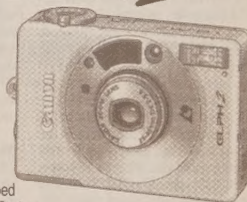

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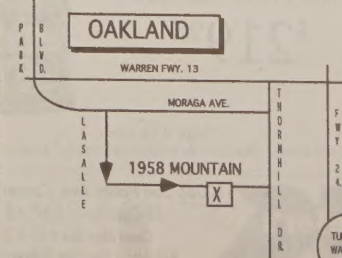
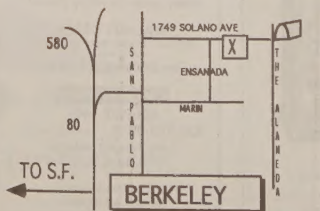
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Supervisors plan to review emergency room closures policy

MARTINEZ — The mayor of Pinole said Tuesday that the planned closure of the emergency room at the Pinole campus of Doctors Medical Center will "essentially tear the heart out of the community."

Mayor Maria Alegria, speaking to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in Martinez, said the emergency room's proposed closure by the for-profit Tenet Health System is of great concern.

She said the closure could strand many older residents and others who will be unable to get nearby emergency room care.

Alegria said she was worried when the city recently approved more housing for seniors.

"I was concerned we were putting all our eggs in one basket," she said. Supervisors voted to review poli-

cies on the impact of emergency room closures in general under a new state law.

Alegria told the board, "You are our only hope."

But a spokeswoman for Tenet said the move is a good one for the community because it will allow doctors at the San Pablo facility more practice treating more seriously ill patients. She said doctors treating less serious outpatient surgeries will also concentrate more, allowing both facilities' doctors to "hone" their skills.

Kevin Reilly, a lobbyist for the California Nurses Association, told the board that many in the affected communities of Rodeo, Crockett, Pinole and San Pablo grappled with whether the county could intervene to stop the closure.

He said that last summer the state Assembly defeated by a single vote Berkeley Assemblywoman Dion Aroner's bill to give counties more say in emergency room closures. Reilly said the bill may come up for a vote again next session, but not in time to affect Pinole's outcome.

Alegria said only Pinole and none of the other affected cities got direct notice of the planned "realignment" from Tenet.

In a Nov. 15 letter, Tenet Chief Executive Officer Gary Sloan told Alegria of the company's plan to shift emergency services at Pinole to Doctors hospital in San Pablo, which is also run by Tenet.

Dr. William Walker said the county must complete its impact report by Jan. 15 to comply with state law.

Ely

FROM PAGE A1

Director Ann Chaney currently can issue a broad array of sign and home occupation permits, though her actions are subject to review by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Under terms of the new ordinance, Chaney will still be required to refer matters where "there is significant public controversy," to the P & Z Commission for a hearing and action, according to a staff report.

The only major questions raised about the proposed ordinance dealt with the weight of trucks and other vehicles allowed to deliver items to residences with home occupancy (work) permits.

Current code restricts such deliveries to vehicles that three-quarter ton in weight or smaller. Chaney said most UPS trucks are larger than the code currently allows. As a consequence, a change was tentatively approved that will increase the weight restriction to 5-ton vehicles.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to the council supporting both elements of the ordinance change. The final hearing on the measure will be conducted at the Dec. 20 council meeting.

Other business

The council authorized city administrator Daren Fields to enter into a three-way agreement with the city of Berkeley and the University of California aimed at studying water flow along Codornices Creek and creating designs for creek restoration where the creek approaches UC village.

Funding for the study and design project, limited to a ceiling of \$35,000, will be provided by a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, according to the staff report. Albany is "trying to use the grant money for as much of the project as possible," Fields said. If necessary, the endeavor may be funded in part by revenue collected under Measure R, a city parking restriction and open space initiative passed by voters in 1996.

In other business:

■ During the "good of the public" segment of the meeting, long-time resident and businessman Greg Brazil said that on Nov. 17, a judge ruled in favor of petitioners—of which he was one—effectively making "null and void" a redevelop-

ment project for northwest Albany. The council made no comment.

■ Mark Matherly, who lives near Albany Bowl, told council members that despite an agreement brokered with bowling alley owner Ken Friedman in October, noise and other disturbances in the parking lot continue.

He said incidents subsided for a time after Friedman hired additional security guards. Matherly said the noise and problems "are gradually returning."

Solano

FROM PAGE A1

plicated series of hand motions, the mime communicated with the crowd, telling boys and girls that some days, the toy soldier will be joined by an elf that appears miraculously at spots on Solano Avenue during the holiday season.

Next door to Santa, a cat sat peacefully on a comfortable chair last Thursday, gazing at young children through its window to the world. As a lamp glowed yellow atop an end table, visitors strolled inside where cats and dogs are up for adoption, thanks to the Berkeley Humane Society. Folks were greeted by Nancy Frensky and her dog True, who spun around in circles and performed other daring tricks.

Kids can have their photo taken with Santa Claus and their pets Sunday, Dec. 19, Frensky said.

"The pictures are great for cards or buttons," she said, adding that proceeds from the photos will help care for other pets that are lost or looking for a home.

"I'm having a blast," said Kati McManus, 11, wrapped up tight in a warm jacket in the chilly night air. "I think other kids will like it here. It's really a child-involved place, especially for younger kids. They'll enjoy it because it's every kid's fantasy land."

"This is the Solano Avenue Association's opportunity to give something back to the community," Lisa Bullwinkel said, nestled between two

Assistant city administrator Ritzma said the council will take the matter at the Dec. 20 meeting. Matherly said the date for the hearing and action could be taken.

Li. Greg Bone later said the hearing and action could be taken. Bone hoped to meet with city and other neighbors to find a resolution to the problem.

Bone hoped to meet with city and other neighbors to find a resolution to the problem.

Christmas trees indoors. The scene is really dressed up. And in addition to Santa, there's a sock tree where people can leave a pair of socks to the elves for Tots, or canned food for the needy.

Alameda County food bank almost as good as saying it's a good idea to give a gift to a friend or family member to purchase a Solano Peninsula gift certificate good at over 40 shops in the area.

During the holidays, the group will perform for Christmas Eve, singing for gifts or donating to a national array of restaurants. There's going to be something from Frog Legs Country music to jazz, stillbirths and eels; choirs and groups will perform. Santa Claus will be with the pep bands and Celtic harp.

Santa Claus will be with the young helpers from Maricopa School.

"We're going to be here," said Kye Jones, 11, member of her school's yearbook. "It's really fun, and it's a wonderful opportunity to give something back to the community."

Santa will be at 1225 Solano Thursday and Friday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Santa is hosted by Jason Yee, who donated their buildings during the season.

For information, call 527-5275.

Friedman

FROM PAGE A1

to paycheck as a city," Friedman said.

Listing his civic priorities, Friedman said he wants to "forge a positive working relationship with the new council and the community," pass the March swim center/clubhouses ballot measure, plan to build other infrastructure needs, pursue comprehensive economic development and "live to see a revitalized Plaza." Friedman also talked about the needs of local schools, saying, "Although improving our schools is not an issue that the City Council has responsibility for, it is to me the single most urgent task for our community."

Retiring council members Bartke and La Force each made farewell remarks at the beginning of this week's

council meeting (La Force's remarks appear on page A4). Both had served on the council for eight years — Bartke served two one-year stints as mayor and La Force served one year as mayor. El Cerrito has a tradition that council members serve a maximum of two terms, and neither Bartke nor La Force ran for a third term in the last election.

Bartke reviewed eight years of accomplishments that included the build up of city reserves, construction of Fire Station #72, the Plaza revitalization plan and increased civic communication with greater citizen involvement. She charged the new council "to continue to work towards developing a secure financial base so that the city's budget is not at the whim of the state." She also said a long-term strategy for repair and maintenance of city infrastructure is needed.

Bartke thanked the citizens of El Cerrito for allowing her to serve and represent them for the past eight years. "It has been fun," she said "but I am ready to retire."

In his remarks, La Force humorously told the audience that he has now joined the "loyal order of the has beens," and added "I am confident that there are a few people in town who are very happy to see this day — I should know, I am one of them."

La Force spoke of principles that guided his eight years on the council. These included the belief that political leaders must help the least fortunate, protect the environment, meet the needs of the community and help deliver cost effective government services. La Force personally thanked city management staff at the meeting. "None of what was accomplished could have been done without the hard work of our employees and the leadership of our management team over the years," he said.

"I know I did not please all the people all the time, but I hope people found that they knew where I stood on the issues and why, that I always kept my word, and that what they saw is what they got," La Force said.

Moms

FROM PAGE A8

said. "I find it a bit of a struggle that there are no models for people like me. I found I couldn't get distracted by the myriad ways people were doing it. I had to be creative about what it could look like," she encouraged.

To round out the evening, engineer Rachel Murray told how she was no longer interested in her fast-track job at an engineering consulting firm once her children were born. The commute to San Francisco and the hours in the office became frustrating because they were hours she wanted to be at home.

After baby-proofing her home and helping friends baby-proof theirs, she founded Safe & Sound Children Inc.

Murray honestly shared the downside of shifting careers after mother-

hood. She missed the identity of walking into a party and being introduced as an engineer. She feels she disappointed her father because she was the only one of her siblings to follow in his footsteps. And she feels she disappointed her husband because the family income went down substantially.

"I'm still coming to terms with this, but I love what I'm doing. I don't work long hours and I get to spend just the right amount of time with my kids," she said.

The bevy of questions at the end of the presentation reflected that a chord had been struck.

"I found listening to the stories of the people very inspiring. It was very good to connect with people who have already made the transition and are making it work so I feel like I'm not alone," Rile said.

For information on East Bay Moms, call 653-7867.

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History

FROM PAGE A1

This area has become uncommonly diverse," she said, "but many of the people are not aware of each other." Longtime El Cerrito resident Virginia Throssell agreed. Many El Cerritos know bits and pieces of their history but not the overall picture, she said.

"They greet new people," Throssell said, "but they still sort of stay together along ethnic lines." Linda Jones, the historian of the El Cerrito branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spoke of her roots in a 500-acre town that included pieces of today's Richmond, El Cerrito and El Cerrito. The latter was incorporated in 1917.

The likelihood of the population of the cities to the salad in a salad dressing, with the cities' history serving

as the salad dressing.

Taking a page from traditional Portuguese Holy Ghost parades of the past, she urged residents to "get back to the Holy Ghost."

"God has never separated us by color," Jones said. "He loves us all."

There were albums of historic photos courtesy of the El Cerrito Historical Society, which co-sponsored the event along with the city. There were also several volumes of oral histories, an ongoing project by Ma and several assistants.

Historical society member Art Schroeder asked for the public's help to identify the builders of the walls at Huber, Poinsett and Arlington parks under the federal Work Projects Administration of the New Deal.

The walls are stellar examples of Italian or Portuguese masons' craft.

"It's a pity no one has come forward to tell us who they were," Schroeder said. "We want to honor them."

of the tests, many individuals will be asked to make an additional gift to the effort to save Butsch's life.

Each donor of European ancestry will be asked to pay the cost of the test, which is \$58 per person.

Since there is a serious shortage of bone marrow registry listings for people of Asian, African, or Asian heritage, individuals from these ethnic groups will not be charged.

Everyone who offers their help is potentially giving the greatest gift one can ever offer another human being—the gift of life.

A vision of UC-Berkeley for a new century, circa 1896

The new exhibition "Roma/Pacifica: The Phoebe Hearst International Architectural Competition and the Berkeley Campus, 1896-1930," at the UC-Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive provides a rare view into the past—and past dreams of the future—for the Berkeley campus.

This centennial celebration, which opens Dec. 15, will feature stunning large-scale drawings, preliminary designs, and related photographs from the collection of UC-Berkeley's Environmental Design Archives, with additional materials from the University Archive and the Bancroft Library. Much of this material has remained unseen for the past 100 years.

In 1895, at the suggestion of acclaimed Berkeley architect Bernard Maybeck, mining and real estate heiress Phoebe Apperson Hearst agreed to sponsor an international architectural competition to select a master plan for UC-Berkeley.

The Phoebe Hearst International Competition began amid much publicity, and attracted worldwide interest. Over 100 entries were received for the preliminary round of judging, which was held at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp. From this group, 11 finalists—three from France, one each from Austria and Switzerland, and six from the East Coast—were invited to submit revised entries for judging in San Francisco in the fall of 1899.

The first prize—which included

\$10,000, at that time the largest prize offered in an international design competition—was awarded to Emile Bénard, a French architect who in 1867 had been awarded the prestigious Grand Prix de Rome.

Bénard's entry, submitted under the title "Roma," featured buildings in the Franco-Roman style positioned along an east-west axis and arranged around grand public squares. Bénard arrived in San Francisco in late 1899 to begin work on the project; however within a year his relations with Mrs. Hearst and the regents of the University of California had soured.

Bénard soon left California to be replaced by John Galen Howard, an architect from New York City who was hired in 1901 to realize a modified version of Bénard's scheme.

Roma/Pacifica presents the competition's progression from Bénard's original lavish design—a series of Franco-Roman buildings arranged around grand, open squares—to Howard's vision of Italianate granite and stucco buildings with tile roofing. Each phase of the campus' development is illustrated by original preparatory sketches and large-scale presentation drawings, along with supporting documents and photographs.

The exhibition closes with a vision of the UC-Berkeley campus by yet another luminary architect—acclaimed champion of the California Arts and Crafts movement, Bernard Maybeck.

In the 1920s, Phoebe Hearst's son, William Randolph, commissioned Maybeck and his former student Julia Morgan to design a series of buildings along the southeast edge of the Berkeley campus as a memorial to his mother. The result was a lavish design that included a gymnasium, domed auditorium, lengthy promenades, museum galleries and even a school of music.

Of these, only the gym designed by Maybeck and Morgan was realized. Today, the Phoebe Hearst Women's Gymnasium remains as a monument to the University of California's greatest early benefactor, and to Julia Morgan, who received strong support from Phoebe Hearst early in her career, and whose work has made such a lasting impression on the Bay Area landscape.

The centenary of the competition also coincides with the university's creation of a new comprehensive master plan for future development.

The New Century Plan represents

PAST VISION OF THE FUTURE

Roma/Pacifica: The Phoebe Hearst International Architectural Competition and the Berkeley Campus, 1896-1930 is at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Dec. 15-April 23. The exhibit is at 2626 Bancroft Way, just below College Avenue near the UC-Berkeley campus. Gallery Hours: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Admission: general, \$6; seniors and students 12-18 years, \$4; BAM/PFA members, UC-Berkeley students and children under 12, free; group tour member \$3 (to arrange, call 510-842-5188); Free hours: Thursday 11 a.m.-noon, and 5-9 p.m. Information: 24 hour recorded message at 510-642-0808.

only the second time in the University's 131-year history that such a task has been undertaken.

"We are an aging campus," says Chancellor Berdahl. "Our newest buildings are as old as the oldest ones on many other UC campuses. We cannot sustain our level of excellence without renewal."

The master plan comes at a critical juncture, as the campus takes on a massive seismic retrofitting program.

Gift

FROM PAGE A1

type. Since there is no match for Butsch in the AMS, it is crucial that one be made, and soon.

While being listed in the national registry is not a difficult thing to do, the donation itself takes just a few minutes, unless a benefactor steps forward and underwrites the costs

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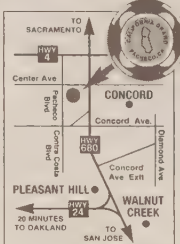
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ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

ATTENTION: SCRIP BUYERS. All Albany PTAs have now converted to electronic scrip for Safeway and Andronico's; we will still sell paper scrip for Lucky's /Albertsons and Natural Grocery.

eScrip is an electronic Scrip program where a supporter (you!) registers any or all of one's MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express, ATM, Debit or grocery loyalty (Safe-way Club) cards for a \$10 annual fee. Supporters then use their registered cards when paying for merchandise at participating merchants. The merchant then donates a percentage of the sale to your PTA. For \$10, you can sign up one school. If you have children in different schools and wish to split the profits between schools, it will cost an additional \$5 per school per year to cover accounting costs. Better yet, ask a relative or friend to sign up for the other school, and you won't have to split the profits!

To register your cards with eScrip, call 1-800-400-7878 Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 8 p.m.. For more information, check out the website at www.escripinc.com or call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782.

Following are the Albany school numbers for eScrip:

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Albany Middle School 136556344
MacGregor High School 139258791
Marin Elementary School 136951780
Cornell Elementary School 136926069
Ocean View Elementary School 136951432

Albany High School

SCRIP Orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). We are selling Lucky/Albertsons and Natural Grocery scrip. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or

Belinda Lum at 528-2429. E-mail Linda at orbelinda@pacbell.net

Dec. 13, Site Council Meeting, 6 p.m., AHS Main Office

Dec. 15, College Financial Aid Night, 7:30 p.m., AHS Little Theater

Jan. 3, PTA Meeting, 7:15 p.m., AHS Library

Albany Middle School

SCRIP Orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). We are selling Lucky/Albertsons and Natural Grocery scrip. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018 or Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail Linda at cho.pri.lo@cho.org.

Dec. 16, Gay/Lesbian Issues Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

Dec. 16, Site Council Meeting, 6 p.m., AMS Library

January 6, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library

Cornell Elementary School

SCRIP sales: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). Lucky/Albertsons, Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl SCRIP for sale Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:15-8:45, and Wednesday after school.

Dec. 16, Site Council Meeting
Jan. 12, PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Marin Elementary School

SCRIP for sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before school, at both early and late bird times, and Wednesday after school. Orders can be placed in office at any time. Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above).

Reminder: Please remember to save and turn in General Mills box-tops for education to office.

Dec. 16, Site Council Meeting
Jan. 13, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Marin Multi-Purpose Room

Ocean View Elementary School

SCRIP for sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before school on playground. Ask for Kim Denton. Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above).

ECHS NEWS

"Marisol" Dec. 10, and 11, 8 p.m. ECHS Little Theater

PTSA meeting, Mon, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. - ECHS Room 812. All are welcome.

Winter break Dec. 20 - 31

Modified days

The following modified days are cancelled:

Wed, Dec. 15
Wed, Jan. 19
Wed, Feb. 16
Wed, March 15
Wed, April 19
Wed, May 17

They are now regular days for students.

Time in to KECG 88.1 FM, 9:55 - 10:05 am Mon - Fri, for ECHS daily announcements Visit website - <http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/el-cerrito/>

Dec. 16, Site Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library

Jan. 6, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library

AUSD Board of Education

Dec. 14, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

January 11, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD District Calendar

Dec. 20-31, Winter Break, NO SCHOOL, Happy Holidays!

Jan. 3, 2000, CLASSES START

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or email: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

California's National State Teacher of the Year for 1999, Bill Pence, will be guest speaker at a joint PTA program sponsored by Kensington Hilltop Elementary, Harding Elementary, Madera Elementary, Portola Middle, Castro Elementary and Fairmont Elementary schools.

Bill Pence is a Life Sciences Teacher at California High School in the San Ramon Unified School District. At California High since 1976, Pence has won many teaching honors. In 1995 a Genentech program called Access Excellence named him one of 100 fellows picked nationally from over 9,000 applicants. The following year, the National Science Teacher Association named Pence one of the country's top biology teachers. At that convention, he was honored as one of the top 100 math and science teachers in the nation by a program sponsored by the

Tandy Corporation. He is the only K-12 educator to become this nation's 175th United States Aquanaut, conducting research in a tropical submarine canyon, while living 51 feet down in an underwater habitat (U.S. Hydolab) for seven straight days before coming to the surface.

In Bill's words, "Perhaps my greatest contribution as a classroom teacher has been one of appreciating my students for who and what they are and valuing the richness and diversity in their lives beyond the classroom. It is not enough for an educator to care only about their students' academic progress, rather, the educator must learn to listen with their hearts and value the lives of each of their students. He goes on to say, "for them to find their passion, they need to see my passion; learning is an ever-evolving process."

Among his most recent accom-

plishments are appearances on CNN World News, NBC Nightly News and the Today Show for facilitating two of his students to map three cancer-causing genes.

This joint PTA program will be held on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2000, 7:30 p.m. at the Portola Middle School Gymnasium, 1021 Navallier St. in El Cerrito. For more information contact Kensington PTA President, Terry Morioka, (510) 271-7289.

Come listen to the engaging story Bill has to tell about how and why he became a teacher, the role his parents played in his education and in the local PTA, and concerns he has regarding the present crisis found in public education today.

Mira Vista concert and holiday auction

Mira Vista's holiday concert and

WEST COAST SCHOOL

silent auction from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00. For more information, call June Kamehameha at 525-6782.

Check out a preview of the progress of the new Middle/High School

The Ohlone putting up weekly construction activities on the web page. Check it out at <http://www.ohlone.edu/cusgate/woodst/>

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Real Estate & Home

The Montclarion, The Berkeley Voice, The Piedmonter, The Journal

December 10, 1999

Section B

Editorial Won't you come home, George Bailey? [B2]

Weekly Sales A snapshot of where our local market stands [B9]

Open Homes Start the weekend right with our handy guide [B12]

Planners aim to tame suburban sprawl

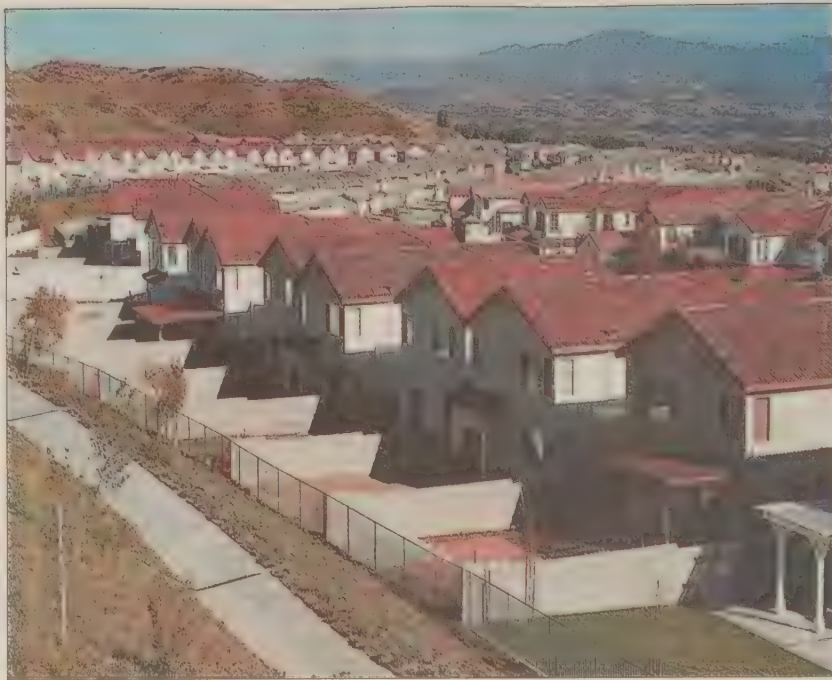
■ From improving public transportation to creating attractive living in the cities, planners are finding solutions to congestion

By Catherine Fox
COX NEWS SERVICE

AS THIS CENTURY expires, politicians, media and a new generation of planners are waging war on suburban sprawl. The contemporary equivalent of the medieval plague, suburbia has been blamed for everything from the Columbine High School murders in Colorado to the increase in deer road kill in upstate Michigan, not to mention the road rage-inducing commutes that metropolitan residents endure every day.

Despite the Cassandras who warned of the consequences of unplanned and unlimited growth even before the turn of the 19th century, we built countless residential subdivisions, strip shopping centers and regional malls to create the perpetual gridlock that has finally gotten America's attention.

"During recent elections, there were more than 250 development and growth measures on state ballots," says Michael Stanton, president of the American Institute of Architects. "This suggests to me that the state of our environment has become an issue to the average citizen. People are reacting to a nagging sense that something has gone wrong with the



NEW YORK TIMES

See SPRAWL, Page B10

HOMES AS FAR as the eye can see: Yes, this is the norm, but it may become less so in the years to come.

Owning a Piece of History



Mark Wilson

Golden Gate Park was built with design concepts first employed in lush Manhattan

Make most of urban retreats

Part one of four parts

If you have been to New York City and walked down its urban canyons, you likely know what a saving grace Central Park is. The world's most crowded island would be unlivable without the green and lush public space set at its heart.

Central Park is perhaps the most famous urban public space in the United States. It has helped set the standard for such civic amenities for the past 150 years.

Here at home, the Bay Area has a wide variety of landscaped open zones.

See WILSON, Page B11



Dramatic Contemporary Home with View.....\$499,000

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Potential Galore! Motivated Seller!.....\$549,000

Monterey Colonial 3BD, 2.5BA. Very spacious rooms, hardwood floors, some upgrades. Excellent floor plan. Get home before the holidays.

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JAN NIEFF ext. 243



Bay View. Comfortable and Cozy.....\$339,000

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My next-door neighbors, a young professional couple, pay Internet startup Webvan to round up and deliver their groceries. The truck trundles up and a couple of guys trot out to the apartment with produce in green and yellow plastic crates. My neighbors across the street use Peapod.com.

These are neighbors I am never going to bump into at Andronico's or Berkeley Bowl. They'll never ring my doorbell to borrow a cup of sugar. And as the digital wave overtakes us, I'm afraid I won't find them at the post office, bookstore, library, gallery, university, polling precinct or town hall.

As a people, especially in the wired Bay Area, we're severing our bonds with our neighbors. We're losing each other to one-click convenience and anonymity. We're selling our souls to Silicon Valley.

I recently bought a book in cyberspace at Amazon.com to see what all the fuss was about. I paid about what I would have paid in the real world, but I didn't spend a Sunday afternoon browsing the bookstores on Telegraph, Shattuck and Bancroft avenues. I really missed that.

Instead, I was part of a clinical transaction. The money went to Amazon's warehouse, forklift driver

Quality of Life



John Snyder

"We all make choices about how we want to live among neighbors..."

in Portland, Ore., not the staff of a struggling local bookstore.

And there were other costs. It's the George Bailey effect: Not being downtown, I didn't stop for a cup of coffee and share time with people I otherwise never come into contact with. I didn't pick up a copy of the homeless newspaper Street Spirit and read news and opinions I'm not going to find in the mainstream press. I didn't overhear something that might make a good story. I didn't make somebody laugh. Lots of stuff didn't happen that makes life rich.

Like George Bailey in Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life," I affect the world and the world affects me in profound and unpredictable ways. The trick is to get out there

and make a difference by living among neighbors.

I feel a marked drain of genuine community out there: the sense that people agree we're in it together.

Take the guy yammering on his cell phone while standing in line behind me at La Note or Yoshi's. Consider the woman on my block who regularly pierces the late-night calm with the CHIRP-CHIRP of her car alarm. What of the dispirited MCI telemarketer who always calls us at dinnertime? We all make choices about how we want to live among neighbors.

One of the reporters here argues that the Internet and other advanced communications technology saves people time and drives progress for all. He's a task-oriented guy. No time to dilly-dally in my touchy-feely world. He actually likes using telephone keypads to vend his way through corporate customer service. It's strategic, he says, and accomplishes a goal.

Me, I like speaking with a live operator. Maybe it takes longer (maybe not) but when all is said and done I feel I've touched humanity. Like monkeys raised in zoo isolation, we innately yearn for warm-blooded

companionship and show pathological symptoms when we're cut off.

The Internet is a great tool to aid research and communication. In one small but clear example of how well the 'Net works, this summer's successful grass-roots campaign to save KPFA radio likely could not have happened without dedicated activists taking to the Web. But for too many people virtual reality supplants flesh and blood, and that's bad news.

Advertising drives the Internet. Dot-com ads clutter our billboards and airwaves. We say it's progress because a lot of money changes hands.

I'd rather be involved with the lives of my neighbors and co-workers than with strangers a world away. My neighbors' lives are bound up with mine. We pay the same taxes; we breathe the same air; we are asked to vote on the same measures; we share the freeways; and we share a stake in education and public safety.

The alternative? You'll get your global economy, but you'll pave over the little guy who doesn't have a voice or an Internet service provider. And you may be the little guy.

Local loyalties are fading. There are fewer middle grounds. George

Bailey's idyllic Bedford Falls forgets its heart and decays into Pottermoreville.com.

Reining in suburban sprawl

Our lead story this week ("Planners aim to tame suburban sprawl," page B1) by Catherine Fox also serves as a warning. People are reacting to a nagging sense that something has gone wrong with the way we live, Fox says. She writes:

"Forget a chicken in every pot. What Americans have always wanted is a house with a yard. In a country in which life is not centered around the cathedral or the palace, our homes have truly become our castles. As the suburbs grew, cities withered. Faced with lousy schools, crime and urban decay, Americans continued to decamp to the green beyond."

In Europe, there are pubs, vital urban community centers and piazzas. In the United States, where space is much more plentiful and the automobile reigns supreme, we have zoned cookie-cutter housing as far as the eye can see. We leave the cities to fend for themselves and park our kids in front of the entertainment center.

What are the trends that Fox finds may restore balance to the American home and community? What's

happening near land area? ... what's on the horizon?

Resuscitating urban

Also on page B1, Catherine Fox shows us that there still are places to hope. Golden Gate Park and Central Park are out a better quality of urban anonymity, alienation and suburban trouble. Read "4424 of 5707 Redwood Rd."

Are these great four-part series to quantify you with the Bay Area's struggle to grow with its member, we're in the

John Snyder is the author of "The Quality of Life," a public forum. His point of view is "Write Us" 5707 Redwood Rd. 4424 of 5707 Redwood Rd. Letters we print may be edited for style and length. We include a daytime phone so that we may verify the authenticity of your letter.

Realtors find multiple listing service riddled with 'improvements'

I sent off a letter of complaint last week to East Bay Regional Data, the provider of our multiple listing service. That's the interactive database Realtors use to make sense of who's who and what's what in the market. Without the MLS, local agents couldn't keep up with listings or effectively communicate with clients and each other.

It was last December that local agents voted in GTE's System 4. We were told the new system was Y2K-proof and "a great improvement" over what we'd been using. The system was supposed to include some features that still have not appeared. The features it does have frequently don't work.

Agents expected that there would

True Experiences



Tarpo and Talbert

be problems with the changeover. We knew we'd have to learn new procedures. We anticipated that it would take time for the provider to work out the inevitable kinks. We did not know that we would have to buy new computers. Who could have guessed that Anet's and my two computers, less than a year old at the time, proved not powerful enough to handle the new MLS? We and many of our fellow agents, upset and stuck, bought new computers.

Many weeks of frustration followed as we attempted to download System 4. We spent hours on hold for technical support. We spent days

knowing that we would have to buy new computers.

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Many weeks of frustration followed as we attempted to download System 4. We spent hours on hold for technical support. We spent days

waiting for someone knowledgeable to appear in person to make the system operational.

Inconvenient for us, yes; but things grew so bad that last January the local market almost came to a standstill.

With most of us unable to input new listings, let alone retrieve them, agents advised sellers to wait until the MLS was accessible before marketing.

Our MLS provider promised improvements; some things did get better. Having no choice, we have used the system to access information about what is currently on the market and what has sold.

As I just wrote to the provider, this software ought to have certain

improved features:

■ Take the way the statistical data is set up. At best, it is cumbersome to find how many houses were listed or sold in any given month or year. For example, if I want to compare the number of houses sold in Berkeley in 1998 versus 1999, I search back to Jan. 1, 1998, get figures for both years, then subtract the total of one year from the other.

Or, if I want the figures for just the month of August for several years in a row, I need to separate out the sales for each year, then count up the ones that occurred each August.

It is not possible to search between two dates; any search must begin with the earliest date. Therefore, going back four years is an even

bigger problem; the system shows 501 listings at a time. Looking for information over several years, I may be overwhelmed. This is almost sure to be the case in larger cities such as Oakland where there are more listings than a barnyard.

■ Another problem is that it is possible to print out data for a given period on pages with photographs (nine to a page). Information presented is so small that the list price and sale price are not even included. In order to compare list price with final sale price, I must look at each listing.

■ Generating statistics

See MLS, Page B9

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CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 10

Bay Area Council of Realtors annual luncheon. 199 Seawall Dr., San Francisco. Networking at 11:30 a.m., luncheon at noon. For reservations, call (415) 441-3800 or e-mail Hayward@bayarea.org.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Bay Area Association of Realtors forum and marketing meeting. Topic: Annual Holiday Jeopardy. 10:30 a.m. networking; 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Bring buyer and seller contracts. Garden Isle Clubhouse, 1060 Broadway Ave., Alameda. Cost for members \$10, for non-members \$10.

Wednesday

UC Botanical Garden. Enjoy a free tour of the UC Botanical Garden at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Special-interest classes on a variety of subjects. The garden is located on 1400 Central Expressway, Berkeley. Call 510-642-3343.

Financial counseling. Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit community service organization in Oakland, offers a series of free workshops. Registration is mandatory. Call (800) 501-1000.

San Francisco's changing skyline. Walk through the city's history and landmarks, churches and high-rises on a free guided walking tour. Sponsored by the city's Community and Economic Development Agency. Call (415) 698-3234.

Plant clinic. Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month for a free Sick Plant Clinic at the UC Botanical Gardens, 1400 Central Expressway, Berkeley. Drop in with a plant or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call 510-643-2755.

Down loans: Pizza seminar for first-time home buyers. Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. First American Title, 3397 Deer Valley Road, Antioch. Presented by Community Funding. 925-778-4500.

Home buyers seminar. Learn how to buy a house in East Bay for minimal or no money down; sales held regularly at American Title, 100 Central Blvd., Brentwood. Call (415) 616-5735 for schedule.

Bay Area Association of Residential Lenders. Group meets the second Thursday of the month. Crowe Mortgage Club in Danville. 925-451-8147. Mortgage Broker/Debra House at San Francisco Design Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through Jan. 10. Free design exhibit of three homes. See showrooms. 2 Henry Adams St., S.F. 415-490-5800.

Accept event announcements. Space-available basis. Fax list for this section to 510-339-1000, write 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland 94619 or e-mail cec@cecimes.com.

OAR charts course for 2000

From staff reports

Forget mediocrity. L.J. Jennings is "after miracles."

Jennings, sworn in Friday as the Oakland Association of Realtors president for the second consecutive year, said he expects changes in 2000.

"The biggest challenge facing the Oakland Association of Realtors is coming together -- in some way we haven't identified -- with other local directorships about acting globally, working on common programs like government relations and continuing education," said Jennings. "My charge is to make that happen."

Jennings said he did not know if such an effort would require local associations come together under centralized leadership.

However Jennings proceeds, these clearly are dynamic times for member Realtors.

The median price of a new single family house in Alameda County jumped 17 percent to \$425,990 during the quarter ending in mid-November, compared with the same quarter last year, according to The Meyers Group, a real estate information company. New home sales fell by 3.1 percent to 559 during the quar-

ter compared with the same period last year.

Steep price increases were recorded in Contra Costa County, where the median house price jumped 15.4 percent to \$296,900 during the quarter. The county's new home sales jumped 18.1 percent to 781 during the quarter.

At the same time, the number of unsold houses dropped as houses were sold as soon as they were built. The number of unsold houses fell by 13.8 percent in Contra Costa County and by 60.2 percent in Alameda County.

"Because we are centrally located in the Bay Area, we have the best housing values," said Jennings.

Other officers of the Oakland Association of Realtors for 2000

- President-elect John Holmgren
- Vice President Don Dunning
- Vice President Hannah Goody
- Vice President Lois Harris
- Treasurer Janet Halliburton



Jennings

Davis taps Neal for housing slot

The California Association of Realtors announced that Gov. Gray Davis has appointed Pat Neal, C.A.R. past president, to serve as Deputy Secretary for Housing within the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which oversees all of the state's housing departments. These include the Department of Real Estate, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the California Housing Finance Agency and the Office of Real Estate Appraisers.

In this role, Neal will serve as Davis' point person on all issues concerning housing and will play a key role in helping the governor shape his housing agenda.

— California Association of Realtors

Housing sales ready to rebound

By J. Linn Allen

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The housing market is taking a breather, but the lull may be more akin to a sprinter cooling down after winning a race than evidence of any weakened condition.

That was the popular view among economists and real estate professionals in response to a report Monday from the National Association of Realtors that sales of existing homes dropped 6.6 percent in October to an annualized rate of 4.79 million.

The number represented the fourth straight monthly decline, and sales were down in all regions of the country, with the Midwest showing a 7.1 percent drop.

On the other hand, home resales are still on track for a record year of 5.2 million units, that would be the Realtor group. That would be 4 percent higher than last year's record of 4.97 million units, the Realtors said.

"A 5 million pace would still sound fabulous," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of RFA Dismal Sciences in West Chester, Pa. "I remember when anything over 4 million was really good."

Zandi added that purchase mortgage applications have been showing strength in recent weeks, indicating that the sales decline already may have halted.

There is general agreement, however, that last spring's sales frenzy, when half a dozen offers for the same home and closings well over

the listing price were common, burnt off some of the market. "That was probably the busiest spring we've ever seen in the western suburbs in 15 or 20 years, but as soon as June 1 hit, it fell right off," said John Veneris, broker manager or Realty Executives in Downers Grove.

Home buyers rushed to the market during a window of opportunity when rates were low but trending upwards last spring, observed James Annable, chief economist for WingspanBank.com, the Internet bank of Chicago's Bank One Corp. "They were borrowing from the future," he said.

He said the hangover from that spring rush may have had as much or more impact in dampening the market as rising mortgage rates, which this fall crept up to as high as 8 percent or more for a 30-year, fixed-rate loan from under 7 percent early this year.

The rates have been rising more or less in tandem with three interest-rate hikes by the Federal Reserve this year, the most recent of which occurred two weeks ago.

Annable said the Fed actions yanked back home sales to some extent, but haven't been the crucial factor. "Had mortgage rates stayed at a low level, home sales would have tailed off anyway," he said.

He noted, however, that the Fed had forecast the slowdown, and would be more aggressive in raising rates further if it hadn't occurred. Since so much consumer spending

in furniture, appliances and the like occurs as a ripple effect of home buying, the Fed is very sensitive to the home sales number, he added.

Veneris said that the interest-rate hikes have had some effect on first-time buyers, who comprise about 35 to 40 percent of his market, but little on trade-up buyers. They've been more subdued because of a lack of good homes for sale, he said.

The same has been true on Chicago's North Shore, said Connie Conway, managing broker of the Glenview office of real estate broker Koenig & Strey. "A decline in available inventory has impacted the total number of transactions, but we still have some buyers active out there," she said.

The Realtor report said the nation's median existing home price in October was \$133,100, up 3.9 percent from \$128,100 a year earlier. While higher than the core inflation rate, which is about 2 percent, the home price increase is lower than in 1997 and 1998, according to Zandi.



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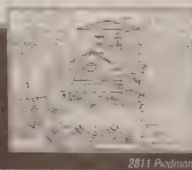
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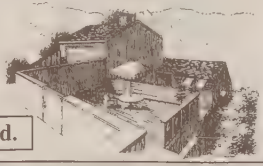
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Risks built in when buyer works on home before closing

Should buyers do work on a property before closing?

Let's say you're buying a home that's showing signs of wear. Maybe the interior could use a coat of paint and the floors need refinishing. You discover through your agent that the sellers are moving out early. If you could gain access to the property after the sellers leave, you could spruce up the property while it's vacant and no one would have to live in a construction zone.

The concept sounds terrific, but buyer and seller face risks when buyers have work done on a property before they own it. From the buyer's standpoint, you're improving someone else's property at your expense. If the deal doesn't close for some rea-

Real Estate Forum



Dian Hymer

"Ideally, work should be scheduled to begin on closing day."

son, you've spent money for nothing.

There also are complications for the seller. What if the buyers have the floors refinished, the refinisher does a lousy job and then the buy-

ers don't close? Even if the buyers pay their refinisher, the sellers may need to have the floors redone properly—costing them unanticipated time and money—before they can put the property back on the market.

Builders of new homes face a similar dilemma when they permit buyers to upgrade or make modifications to the original plans. Often builders require the buyers to pay for the cost of the upgrades in advance. Money paid for upgrades may not be refundable if the buyers back out of the deal. This protects builders from a situation where a home is customized at great expense for a particular buyer who never closes.

Buyers should know that a builder's price for upgrades may be

more than the cost of having the work done by their own contractors after closing.

Some builders require that buyers pay an additional premium over the cost of the upgrades if the upgrades are individualistic or outlandish.

Suppose the buyers want the builders to change a neutral, but stylish, master bathroom to a purple decor with matching top-of-the-line fixtures and cabinetry. If the buyers don't close, the builder will be stuck with a home that may be difficult to sell because most buyers won't want a purple master bathroom.

So the builder might want enough extra money to cover the cost of tearing out the purple and redoing the bath in neutral tones if it becomes necessary. This extra money is usu-

ally refunded to the buyers if they do close the deal.

Certain home refurbishing jobs, like painting and floor refinishing, are easiest to do when the property is vacant. They may also be less expensive to do then. It's best to have such jobs done after you become the owner of the property.

Ideally, work should be scheduled to begin on closing day. Make arrangements to continue renting where you currently live until the major part of the work is done. Then schedule your move.

If you do decide to have work done on the property you're buying before you become the owner, make sure that you and the seller have a written agreement that gives you permission to do so. You may want to consult a

knowledgeable real estate attorney to draw up such an agreement.

Often work is done on a property as a part of the purchase agreement. For instance, the seller may agree to replace a leaking toilet or replace a leaking faucet. In this case, the buyer hires the contractor.

Make sure that the contractor will extend the closing on their work to the buyer's closing.

Dian Hymer is a top broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair office and author of "The Complete Home Buyer's Guide," revised 1998. She has written books. Order copies from books: (800) 722-6657.

Plenty of options if you're hankering to upgrade your home

By J.J. McCoy

WASHINGTON POST

There's the dream, and then there's the reality. We asked a random sampling of home builders to describe their standard offerings in layouts, counters, cabinets, floors and more. The basic kitchen theme is oak cabinets, vinyl flooring and laminate counter tops.

Larry Nordhauser of Builders Design and Leasing, a Washington-area firm that designs kitchens for a range of builders, says that at all price levels, "People expect kitchens to be state-of-the-art. It's the one area they expect to have everything and not compromise."

Counter tops

Laminates such as Formica are

standard. Most builders offer a wider choice of color and texture as an upgrade. Solid-surface materials such as Corian are a higher-priced option, and a step above that is granite.

Alan Shapiro of Winchester Homes says about 30 percent of buyers upgrade from laminate to Corian; about 10 percent choose granite, but usually only for the island, rarely for the entire kitchen. Some people choose ceramic tile, says Larry Nordhauser of Builders Design & Leasing, a firm that designs kitchens for a range of builders, but the grout can be hard to clean. "If it's just a showplace, it's a beautiful look."

Floor plans

In a typical floor plan, kitchens open to a family living area; the cooking area is often defined by half-walls, railings, counters or islands.

In higher price ranges, islands are equipped with a second stove top or preparation space. Double-door or walk-in pantries are increasingly common.

Ann Madison of the Ryland Group says, "What people are looking for, even in a 1,500-square-foot town home, is a full kitchen with a separate eating area."

Dee Minich of Washington Homes says, "We try to make our floor plans as open as possible, to put as much of the square footage into the main area of the home and the kitchen."

Cabinets

Oak cabinets tend to be the standard, with upgrades to more expensive hardwoods. Maple is popular, and "cherry's a big seller in the higher end," says Minich.

Other upgrades: bright white

wood, high-quality laminates, oversized cabinets and "furniture" details such as rounded corners, shelves with decorative brackets, turned table legs, letter slots and bookshelves.

Cabinet detailing is "one of the areas they go to first," says Jim Pohlhaus, custom design manager for Winchester Homes. "Since they spend so much time there, and since it's viewed from many parts of the home, buyers want to add their own touches."

Floors

Basic vinyl is a standard offering, with upgrades to thicker, more-resistant vinyl; wood or ceramic tile. ("The 12-inch tiles are most popular right now," says Shapiro.) Minich says a small percentage opt for laminated wood-look flooring.

Floors are probably the biggest upgrade, to tile and even marble, says Nordhauser, adding that hardwood remains popular. "Today's wood floors are so well made they're practical for kitchens; water damage isn't really an issue anymore."

Appliances

General Electric electric stoves are offered by every builder we contacted. Other standard offerings: 18-cubic-foot frost-free refrigerator; garbage disposal; dishwasher and microwave oven. Gas ranges are offered as an upgrade where available.

"Appliances are the first things upgraded," says Minich, to a gas range, an island down-draft cook top, a double oven and, at the higher end, commercial-grade stoves.

Standard appliance colors are white and almond, says Barbara

Stoehr for Tralugar Homes. "Black is very in."

Stainless steel is also popular, says O'Neill. "It's a better, but it's a little more expensive of as more sleek and modern."

Extras

People are willing to pay for specialty lighting, instead of a standard fluorescent fixture, recessed lighting over specific work areas, big fluorescent light fixtures, everything is definitely an upgrade, says Nordhauser.

Other frequent upgrades: a tilt-out sponge tray at the pull-out garbage can, roll-out drawers, a steel mesh rack on the island, a water dispenser in the refrigerator and purification filters on the faucet.

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6461 ASCOT DR. Gorgeous Mediterranean w/gated courtyard, 4+BD/3.5BA, gourmet kit/FR, au pair. Dick Cohen

Open Sunday



ROCKRIDGE.....\$419,000
6201 AUBURN AVE. Craftsman charm. 2+BD, formal DR, fireplace, gardens & garage. Near BART. Michelle Vasey

By Appointment

MONTCLAIR.....\$775,000
Custom Traditional near Village. 5BD/3BA, formal DR, family room. Perfect for home office or au pair. Wendy Gardner

OAKLAND HILLS.....\$329,000
All-level home w/Bay view, 3BD/2BA, large formal DR, master suite, hwdw. floors, large basement, deck. Vicki Woodhead

OAKLAND.....\$279,000
Reduced! Fully rented 6-plex, all 1BD/1BA units. Between 35th Ave. & High St. Price is "as is." Tom Wurst

BERKELEY.....\$299,000
Spacious 3BD/1BA bungalow on tree-lined street. Large yards, formal DR, hardwood floors. Rosalie Woods

For Lease

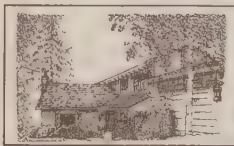
PIEDMONT.....\$12,000/mo.
Magnificent estate property. 7+BD/7+BA, beautiful grounds, pool, partially furnished. Available January, 2000. Georgia Cornell

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PIEDMONT.....\$3,900,000
Gracious Med/Italianate home on 2/3 acre of lush grounds, Bay view, 6+BD/6+BA, library, rumpus rm. Georgia Cornell

PIEDMONT.....\$1,595,000
Gracious Colonial on approx. 1/3 acre. 6+ bedrooms, 5.5 baths, includes four-room au pair. Wonderful yard. Helen Danhakl

MONTCLAIR.....\$910,000
Gorgeous new construction w/pano Bay & city views. Modern style, 3BD/2.5BA, kitchen/FR, terraces. Patricia Scott



ROCKRIDGE (UPPER).....\$669,000
6350 CONTRA COSTA RD. Best buy in great area! 2-yr old contemporary, 4BD/4BA, formal DR, huge FR. Hillcrest school. Anne Feste

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5618 La Salle Avenue \$2,750,000
Open 2-5:00 p.m. Pied. Side of Montclair. The pinnacle of quality. 8000 sq. ft. Exquisite detailing & bay/city/bridge views. Private gated road. Virtual tour-GRUBBCo.com. Debra Dryden

4624 Redwood Road New Listing \$1,800,000
Very popular townhouse complex with great location, spacious 3BR/2.5BA & interesting architectural details throughout. Angela Wei

1 Kelton Court New Listing \$1,100,000
Penthouse condominium with exquisite views, new hardwood floors. Two bedroom suites. Two beds. Piedmont Ave. location. Kurt Beyer

Oakland & Berkeley - By Appointment

Custom Contemporary \$1,150,000
Stunning custom contemporary. 4+BR/3.5 BA, gourmet eat-in-kitchen, fabulous living room with French doors to terrace views. Karen Starr

Income Property \$695,000
Potential Tax Saver! This multi-unit building features nine 3 BR/1 BA units. Great location. Helen Buty



Contemporary Beauty \$549,000
All level home in secluded award winning garden setting. Beamed ceilings and filled with character & charm. 2+BR/2BA and family room. Irene Pettis

Montclair Gem
Adorable & updated home w/wooded views. Light & bright. Hardwood floors, greenhouse windows & more. 3BR/2BA. Hot tub on deck.



Live/Work Space
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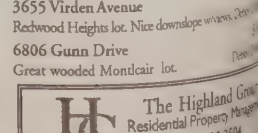
Charming Rockridge \$489,000
Charming split level traditional with fabulous architectural detail throughout. Updated kitchen, 2BR/1.5 BA, study, brick terrace & lovely garden. Elizabeth Dickson

Wonderful Montclair Cottage
Wonderful romantic cottage, light and bright w/2BR, bath, delightful kitchen area. Spacious deck, beautiful garage. Set on a huge lot. Bettina Dwyer

Build Your Own Home
4275 Terrabella Way Gently sloping, 5800 sq. ft. low/city approved plan. 4BR/3BA. 3655 Virden Avenue Redwood Heights lot. Nice downslope views. 2BR/2BA. 6806 Gunn Drive Great wooded Montclair lot.



Charming Crocker Highlands \$469,000
Architecturally lovely 3BR/2BA Crocker Highlands home. Close to school. Spacious rooms. Sunroom off master bedroom. Updated kitchen & baths. Jean Simmons



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To find house that's just right, try listing what would be wrong

Smart Moves

Ellen James Martin

aspects of a locale you're contemplating.

"Every neighborhood is going to have peccadilloes you can't see," Levine says. "People see a beautifully manicured, up-to-date street and automatically think it's great. What they may come to find out later is that it's a sterile place with no energy—like a nice postcard without anything written on the back."

She suggests a walk through a community to chat with local residents. "It's OK to ask about the intangibles," Levine says. "For instance, you might pose questions such as these: 'Are people really friendly here? Can you go across the street and borrow a cup of sugar?'"

■ Use your ears if you're seeking a peaceful area.

One college professor thought he'd lucked out when he found a handsome maroon shingled house within walking distance of his campus office and directly across from a park that served a student dorm. What he failed to factor into his purchase decision, however, was the reality that students played basketball in the courts across the street virtually all year long. And the continuous thumping of the balls kept him awake many a night. To make matters worse, he heard daily the roar and whistle of passing trains.

"I'm very noise-sensitive. Living in a place like the professor's home would bother me," says Berard, of the National Association of Exclusive Buyer Agents.

■ Take a slow Saturday night drive through a locale you're considering. It's one thing to experience a potential neighborhood at 2 p.m. on a Tuesday and quite another to find out what it's like near midnight on Saturday. Are some of the residents on this supposedly peaceful avenue

in the habit of holding clamorous late-night soirees? "You might dread having some crazy neighbors who party on weekends," Berard says.

■ Factor in your affiliations and personal fancies. Most home buyers consider a neighborhood's proximity to their job sites, good schools and other everyday amenities, such as a supermarket. Yet it's also important to remember more subtle factors that could make or break your life there.

Perhaps you are a devout follower of your religious faith. Will there be a welcoming place of worship near your new home? Likewise, a fitness enthusiast may opt for access to a superior athletic club. And a book lover could feel stranded living too far from a top-quality bookstore or library.

It's well worth your time to discover whether a new locale satisfies your individual needs and preferences, Berard says. That could mean taking an extra day off for an in-depth tour of the general area around a home you are contemplating buying.

■ Find an agent who will ask you as many questions as a Gallup poll.

Before he begins showing property to clients, Berard asks them to complete a questionnaire on their preferences and needs. The survey covers everything from their need for medical facilities to their interest in cultural amenities.

Few agents use such a formal survey. But many good agents spend several hours with their clients asking about their lifestyle preferences.

■ Remember that virtually all moves represent bumpy transitions.

Thirty percent of those who move each year do so involuntarily, estimates Levine. People aren't easily transplanted, especially when the move is prompted by domestic discord or an unexpected job transfer. But even a move triggered by a promotion or the opportunity to move to a higher-income community will

likely come with mixed feelings. Conventional wisdom has it that it takes two years to feel totally at

home in a new community — no matter how well-selected. But Levine believes the typical household needs

five years to become fully comfortable, especially when a long-distance move is involved.

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Separate office. Mary Montali, ext. 132\$294,000

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This splendid parcel provides a gentle downslope, great neighborhood and Bay Views! A great location for swift transportation.
Bebe McRae, ext. 145\$265,000



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Built in 1945, this condo is located in a 5 unit building in one of the best shopping neighborhoods in Berkeley! Across from the Monterey Market! Upper sunny 2 BR 1BA w/ hardwood flrs. Susie Schevill, ext. 144\$219,000



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Montclair (Piedmont Side) - What a location. Mostly level living contemporary on great cul-de-sac. 2+BD/3BA. Rec rm. South bay view. Nice garden. Storage!!
Ruby Ng



3585 Monterey Blvd.\$319,000
Redwood Heights - Charming in & out, fabulous 3BD/1BA, gorgeous hrdwd, huge rmps rm great for office, plus work-shop. Formal DR. A 10+ Open 2-5 p.m.
Nader Davari

FIRST OPEN 2-4:30
4015 Greenwood Ave. at Hampel\$449,000
Glenview - Old World Charm. Newly listed 3BD with formal living/dining rooms, ideal for entertaining. Hardwood flrs, fireplace, deck, landscaped garden & more. Open 2-5 p.m.
Pat Whittingslow

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30
3363 Contra Costa
Upper Rockridge - Lots of Sun! Great Views! Spacious yard. 5BD/3+BA 2 fireplaces office family room
Ruth Lockhart\$725,000

BY APPOINTMENT

Costan Masterpiece\$1,750,000
Located on an approx. 3.4 acre bluff overlooking the greater bay area. 180' views, indoor pool, waterfall, and private master suite. Close entrance with circular driveway. A rare find. George Karsant

Piedmont\$549,000
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Evelyn Walker

Upper Rockridge\$499,000
Sharp! Perfect for entertaining with spacious, sunny, LR & 4 bedrooms opening to green patio, master st.
Michael Thompson

Montclair\$449,000
Newly Remodeled. 3+BD/2+BA home has been extensively remodeled so you can move right in! New kitchen, bathrooms & windows.
Michael Thompson

Rockridge\$425,900
Totally located near BART, shops & College Ave. 3BD/2BA (1 new), formal LR & DR. 2+ rms. 2 yr. old kit., garden & more.
Dell Orr

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Joan Alford

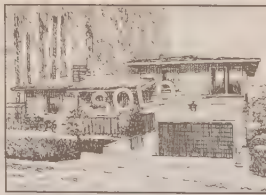
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BAY VIEWS FROM NORTH BERKELEY\$569,000
Gracious Berkeley hills Mediterranean w/Bay views from 2 floors 3+ BR, 2BA, formal dining, hardwood floors yard & patio, and garage. Walk to UC, shops, restaurants

OPEN HOMES
All open homes are Sunday 2-4, unless otherwise noted
7761 Earl Ct, El Cerrito\$389,000
Gorgeous remodel, views, 3+ BR, 2 BA
Bobbie Giaratana

BY APPOINTMENT

SPECTACULAR VIEWS FROM UPPER ROCKIDGE\$849,000
PRICE REDUCED! The Bay Bridge, San Francisco, Oakland, the Golden Gate, Marin & Berkeley, all at your feet. Contemporary design, full of light and space. 4+ bedrooms, 2 baths, master retreat, formal dining, family room, 3 stories of flexible living. Gourmet kitchen with marble and granite.

EXPANSIVE VIEWS OF SERENE PINOLE VALLEY\$475,000
MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! Practically new, custom home on an acre in the hills of Pinole, designed by an award winning architect. 4 bedrooms, 4BD/3BA, fam rm & formal dining plus gourmet kit. Skylights & wet bar, 2 frpls, central AC & built-in vacuum. Landscaping, 3-car gar.

BEAUTIFUL, LIKE NEW, NEAR ROCKIDGE\$425,000
JUST LISTED! Wow! Built in 1981! 3+ bedrooms, 2.5 baths with custom details like maple floors, granite counters and crown moldings. Plus fireplace, landscaped yard, patio & garage. Near shopping & transportation

VIEWS FROM THE JACUZZI\$389,000
JUST LISTED! Soak in the luxury of this private, beautifully remodeled home in the El Cerrito hills. 3BR 2 BA, beautiful family room plus a solarium & deck and loads of other fine, custom details including double paned picture windows!

HANSEL & GRETEL LIVED HERE\$385,000
JUST LISTED! You will fall in love! 2BD/1BA, and more charm than you've ever seen! Top Berkeley hills location, behind a large hedge, on a private lot full of greenery! This is a must see.

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— Name withheld

Mortgage Madness



Karen Senzig

"Conditions are a matter of clarifying for the lender what your true financial picture is."

Not with this lender. Start over someplace else. Let's take a look at how the loan process works:

When a mortgage broker packages a loan application, we try to anticipate all the things the lender will need to approve the loan. It's a delicate balance between giving too much documentation and not enough to support our financial picture. The lender will answer us with one of three forms of conditional approvals.

■ **Suspense, or prior to approval conditions.** This is the lowest form and is not really an approval but it's not a decline either.

The lender is telling us that they like the loan but they need to see additional documentation before they will continue underwriting.

The types of things they may want to see could be a divorce decree and separation statement proving child

his 1040s) instead of his net income.

The borrower is a candidate for a no-income verification or quick-qualifier loan, but as his lender had already seen his documentation, they could not switch him into one of these programs, although they had them.

■ **Prior to documentation conditions, or 'docs.'** This is a full approval, but the lender will not draw the loan documents until this information is provided.

The lender will also not allow for the shortest (and least expensive) lock-in rate until the prior to docs have been complied with. The most usual prior to docs conditions have to do with missing verifications of employment, deposits or mortgage rating.

We typically provide alternate documentation such as payroll stubs and three months of bank statements to speed the process, but if you are going for the very lowest fixed rate mortgage, the lender usually requires the Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac forms that we mail out.

Another common prior to doc condition is an appraisal review by the lender's appraisal department. As brokers we order our appraisals by independent appraisers who in turn are approved with the majority of the lenders we use. However, if our loan to value ratio is greater than 80 percent, or if the appraiser is not on their approved list, most lenders will require a review.

For the self employed, the most common prior to docs condition is a

year to date profit and loss statement and balance sheet. The lender may also ask for a full year's worth of business bank statements to show the cash flow through the account.

For the quick qualifier borrower, prior to doc conditions will only involve credit, asset verification or property issues since income is stated and not verified.

Prior to fund conditions

These are the last-minute house-keeping items that can be as simple as a borrower needing to sign loan documents, or a broker needing to correct typed loan application with the locked in rate.

Brokers on occasion can move a prior to doc condition to a prior to fund. For example, if an appraisal review is called for and our loan to value ratio is below 70 percent, there is a good chance that the value will stand. The lender will still run a review appraisal but this would not hold up docs in the meantime.

Conditions are a matter of clarifying for the lender what your true financial picture is. For you and me, it's just another part of Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511; fax 510-339-3814 and E-mail ksenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions for discussion.

Fyi

HOME SWEET HOME

For most of you, there truly is no place like home. Asked to rate their homes and neighborhoods on a scale of 1 to 10, 69 percent of Americans rated their houses 8 or better, and 67 percent gave that endorsement to their neighborhood, according to the "American Housing Survey for the United States: 1997," compiled by the Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

TOKYO'S TRICKS FOR LIVING SMALL

In Tokyo, where living space is among the world's tightest and most expensive, it's no wonder the latest coffee-table book on interiors, by writer-photographer Ky-oichi Tsuzuki, is a palm-size 4 by 6 inches. "Tokyo: A Certain Style" (Chronicle, \$12.95) has 400 (small) color pictures that show how ordinary people really manage in cramped quarters with minimal storage, from stacking a one-serving dishwasher above a clothes washer to using a child's tricycle as a bedside table.

Tsuzuki, who has produced more than 100 books on art and architecture of Japan, aimed to get beyond "the techno-teahouse-bon-

sai-biz" the modern Japanese style. He found a sentiment in some spaces: a phrase—a Buddha statue, a need is half a tatami mat, one to lie down on, and a tangerine and a telephone.

GARAGE IN A HURRY

Well, it's not quite the Heartland Industries garage is being billed as a effective and easy way space without architect's fees.

Heartland's basic design is a distinct look that's built to fit dimensions from 12 ft. x 10 ft. to 30 ft. x 20 ft. Prices vary widely. 5509 ext. 200

IT'S FLUE SEASON

Just be sure you're not in your own house. You should have your heating system inspected for problems.

So say the people at the National Safety Institute of America's trade group. Virtually any heating system relies on gas or vent to direct carbon monoxide to the outside of a home. If the vent system becomes blocked, carbon monoxide could build up.

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Farms In Berkeley ----- \$550,000
2410 Eunice

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Arch. Gem Set In Magical Garden ----- \$575,000
817 San Diego Rd.

4 Units Across From San Pablo Park ----- \$239,500
2900-06 Mabel

Mt. Tam View ----- \$395,000
31 Northampton

Classic Craftsman ----- \$339,000
1615 Rose

BERKELEY

Spectacular Views ----- \$399,000
1426 Spruce

Space And Sun Galore ----- \$249,000
1206 Stannage

OAKLAND

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2407 19th Ave

Mixed Use Property ----- \$249,000
4302 West St.

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You had more than enough reasons to cancel your listing with the agent. As for the dual agency, where the buyer and seller are represented by the same agent, there is nothing illegal with this type of agency, provided both parties are aware that the agent is representing both buyer and seller.

In many instances I can think of, when the agent works diligently to represent both parties, such representation can work to the benefit of both parties. This was not the case for your sale. For your next transaction, choose your real estate agent as you would choose an employee: Interview him or her carefully. Make certain the person is knowledgeable about what you are selling. Insist that he or she explain how you'll be represented. Make certain the agent has time to properly show your home, deal with potential buyers and answer your questions about the sales or purchase contract, contingencies and other issues.

— Grace Morioka,
Commoncents Management

A: By doing nothing, you allow this kind of unethical behavior to

continue. See an attorney immediately. If your facts are accurate, the agent and company may be liable to you for fraud and misrepresentation. File a complaint with your local real estate board for ethics violations, and file a complaint with the Department of Real Estate, 1515 Clay St., Suite 702, Oakland, CA 94612-1413; 510-622-2552.

If you are considering selling your home, check out the agent before committing to a listing agreement. Dual agency did not ruin this transaction. Selecting the agent without checking his background and credentials is the culprit. There is a common misconception that company size will help sell your home and give you better representation. Your price, condition, and market factors will determine if your home will sell.

— John Reyes,
Re/Max Group South Bay

A: There is something wrong with dual agency. This transaction is an example of why dual agency should not be legal. I don't believe any agent can honestly fulfill his or her fiduciary obligation to both a buyer and a seller. Buyers and sellers always play adversarial roles. When there is enough litigation by those mistreated by this process, there will be a new law that will preclude dual agency and require single agency. Until then, wary buyers and sellers should shop for a real estate agent who only works for them on a single agency basis. In other words, the agent works as an exclusive buyer's agent or an exclusive seller's agent, not as an agent for both.

— Sam J. Gilstrap, enrolled agent and real estate broker

A: It is critical for home sellers

and buyers to understand that agents are not employees of the real estate agency named on their business card. Each agent is a self-employed, independent contractor who splits his or her commission with the affiliated agency. Dual representation of both buyer and seller was not the issue here. The real issue is the integrity and professionalism of the agent. Agents should be required to have the consumer sign an acknowledgment that the agent is a self-employed contractor. Dual agency was a non-issue here.

— Paul Joseph Joyner,
Sommers-Ethan Properties

A: If you believe dual agency was an issue in your transaction, it was an issue for you. As one of the most heavily debated topics in real estate today, dual agency is, at the very least, a questionable practice. It does not take a leap of faith to perceive dual agency as a conflict of interest. It is, on the other hand, difficult to believe in every transaction involving dual agency that one person can equally represent two opposing sides in such a large financial transaction. What other transaction involving hundreds of thousands of dollars in tangible, fast-appreciating assets involves one professional representing both sides?

When you interview a real estate agent practicing dual agency, ask him or her to prove how he or she will equally represent both parties. Ask for it in writing. Ask for the names of buyers and sellers represented by dual agency. Ask the buyer and ask the seller if they both believe they were served equally. When you sell a home, when you buy a home, you are the boss — especially in this market. Don't be bullied by tradition,

hypocrite or salesmanship. You have a growing number of alternatives, including selling your own home, hiring an agent or attorney for some services, and hiring an agent full time with a guarantee — in writing — that he or she won't practice dual agency in your transaction.

— Broderick Perkins,
DeadlineNews.Com

Minimizing the tax bill

Q: For \$850,000, I sold my house to my daughter and her husband without using an agent. I paid \$125 for the termite inspection and \$3,425 for repairs. When escrow closed on May 21, the escrow company calculated all the expenses, and I received a check for \$842,425.12.

Now I'm buying a condo for \$460,000 to \$500,000, and it will be ready to move in by the end of July. How do I minimize my tax bill? I am a widow. My husband died March 1, 1986. He purchased our home in May 1967. To establish what taxes I owe, my accountant said I need to know the value of my home when my husband died, and improvements since he died. I don't know how to determine the 1986 value.

A: Contact a real estate appraiser to get the information you need. Ask friends, family and others your trust for a referral.

— Leonard W. Williams, CPAA

A: Tell the certified real estate appraiser you want a "short form appraisal" of the value as of the date of your husband's death. The short form version is cheaper. The California Division of Tax Administration, 916-445-6321, can also provide you with a list of state probate referees in your county. Referees are specialists at appraising property for probate purposes. The Internal Revenue Service will accept value estimates from either professional.

— Sam J. Gilstrap, enrolled agent and real estate broker

Virtual Real Estate answers are neither legal advice nor professional counseling. Questions and answers are edited for clarity and space. Without the full content of a given problem, answers should be read as basic information. Consult a professional for your specific real estate needs.

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Montclair Better Homes Realty is pleased to announce that Paula Easton has joined our team as a Realtor. Paula comes from a family of professional Realtors, and she, like her forbears, is strongly committed to a high level of client service. A native of the Bay Area, Paula undertook part of her education at Sophia University in Japan. Paula's eleven years of real estate sales coupled with her global perspective and familiarity with Bay Area Markets makes her a valuable asset to us all. We welcome Paula to our office and we are pleased and proud to encourage you to pursue your real estate interest with her.

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Paula Easton
1430 Leimert Blvd., Oakland
510-339-4000 510-287-9592 (VM)

New Real Estate Program can reduce fees and commissions by 50%

BAY AREA - www.Homes-Link.com a real estate company based in Alameda CA has developed a revolutionary concept in real estate sales called Open Listings which is guaranteed to save home sellers 50% while meeting all California Department of Real Estate rules and standards. The concept is so revolutionary that it has the larger franchise based companies up in arms and scrambling for effective ways to combat it. This program even out-discounts Costco, the king of discounts. For example: Costco's discount on the sale of a home priced from \$200,000 to \$224,999 is \$1,775 while

Homes-Link will save the homeowner from \$6,000 to \$6,749.97. On a home priced between \$300,000 and \$349,999, Costco's savings is \$2,800 and at Homes-Link the savings grows to \$9,000 - \$10,499.97. The savings continue to go up from there.

The program is deceptively simple. Sellers work along side their realtor in a partnership based program. The program is a fee for services rendered program rather than a flat 6% commission as is charged by conventional real estate companies. By using a fee for services based program, smart sellers in today's market are

enjoying sales prices in many cases over asking price in surprisingly quick order. This simple, easy to understand program has saved hundreds of home-sellers thousands of dollars in unnecessary real estate commissions, while allowing them additional dollars for their next purchase or for their retirement plans.

The Open Listing program has received rave reviews from scores of happy and satisfied clients throughout the east bay. For further information in your area call:

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Or log on at www.homes-link.com

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7036 Balaam Way Montclair
Savings \$9,650

23670 Glenbrook Ln. Castro Valley... Savings \$8,700

3811 Clarke St. Oakland
Savings \$8,697

14702 Midland Rd. Oakland
Savings \$4,970

944 Eagle Ave. Alameda
Savings \$3,800

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Old Man Winter says now's the time to ready for cold, rain

FALL IS A GOOD TIME to perform preventive home maintenance. Being prepared for cold, rainy weather can save money. Most preventive maintenance tasks will improve comfort, lower utility costs and save energy.

One place to begin preparing your home for cold weather is on the roof. A roof leak can be the cause of significant damage to ceilings, walls, siding and flooring. Don't wait for winter rains to act to test for water leaks. By that time it is neither safe nor practical, and damage will probably already have occurred. Instead, use a garden hose along with a helper to investigate potential problems.

Begin at the low point of the roof and work your way up to the ridge. Stay within about a 4-foot-wide section at a time. The helper should be in the attic with a flashlight looking for uninvited water. Pay attention to problem areas such as metal flashing around chimneys and wall-to-roof connections, valleys and plumbing vents.

Cracked, split and damaged or missing shingles should be replaced. If you dislike heights, use a pair of binoculars to make an inspection from the ground.

Install rain gutters

If your home doesn't have rain gutters and downspouts, install them. If it does, make sure that they are clean and leak-free. Use a gutter scoop to remove debris that has become gutter mulch. If you have weeds growing in your gutters, you need to clean them. Once the majority of the debris has been re-

On the House

Morris and James Carey

moved, flush the gutters and downspouts with a garden hose with a jet-spray nozzle. A plumber's snake can be used to clear an obstruction in a downspout.

Having clean gutters and downspouts is not enough. The water captured by these devices frequently is discharged at the base of the foundation. This can result in problems that range from a damp and musty crawl space to a leaking or flooded basement.

Downspout water should be diverted at least three feet away from the foundation. All downspouts should drain into solid underground drainage pipes that discharge into a municipal storm drain or other collection system. Ground surrounding the foundation should be graded to carry water away from the foundation.

Because the rate of house fires increases in the winter, you should be sure that the fireplace is in tiptop shape. Start by sealing the chimney brick and mortar. This will prevent the absorption of water, which can turn mortar to powder after repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Protect your chimney

Without protection, rain, snow, animals and birds can make their way into the chimney. A combination chimney cap/spark-arrester will prevent unwanted entry, and prevent ashes and flying embers from causing a roof fire. Don't burn a fire in your fireplace until you have had it

checked out by a qualified technician.

Cracked or missing bricks, a damaged flu pipe, deteriorating mortar and a buildup of creosote are signs of an accident waiting to happen. Use refractory (heat-resistant) mortar to repair cracks in the firebox.

Look for cracked window glass and broken seals on storm windows. Most handy homeowners can do single-pane window replacement, whereas insulated panels almost always require a professional.

Be sure to check window warranties. Some manufacturers offer generous repair/replacement programs for failed seals. Your storm-window manufacturer or installing dealer should be able to help with material, and/or advise on how to solve a failed seal.

Rotten wood worsens

Rotten wood will only get worse during winter. Scrape, sand, patch and prime to keep siding, windows, doors, thresholds and trim protected. A thorough cleaning and a fresh coat of paint can be a spring project.

Eliminate draft-producing gaps around doors by adding or adjusting weather-stripping. Don't forget that most exterior doors are equipped with an adjustable door bottom with

a vinyl strip. The door bottom might need to be adjusted, or the vinyl strip replaced, for an airtight seal.

Use high-quality caulk to repair cracks in concrete and asphalt. Make sure that the cracks are clean and

dry before making repairs. If you live in a very cold climate, be sure to shut off and drain outdoor faucets or insulate them. And clear storm drains.

Basement pipes exposed to the cold can freeze and burst. Insulating them with a prefabricated neoprene pipe wrap and some duct tape can prevent this. The pipe wrap can be purchased in various widths to fit any pipe.

The home heating system should be inspected for safety and serviced to ensure that it is operating at peak efficiency. Most utility companies will make a no-charge safety inspection. But consider enlisting a service professional who will clean, lubricate and make necessary adjustments.

Pittsburg contractors Morris and James O. Carey can be heard Saturday mornings on KSFO 560 AM. Write the Carey Brothers, c/o the Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020-1666, or e-mail them at careybro@onthehouse.com. Their Web site is at www.onthehouse.com.

Preparing for cold weather

Cold weather checklist

- ✓ **Roof and chimney**
Check gutters and downspouts, clear blockages and repair leaks. Replace missing, loose or damaged shingles. Make sure the chimney is sealed. Install a chimney cap to keep out animals and block debris from the chimney and check the firebox for creosote buildup.
- ✓ **Attic**
Make sure the attic is properly insulated and ventilated.
- ✓ **Foundation**
Make sure that rain water drains away from the house.
- ✓ **Inside the house**
Check and charge fire extinguishers and replace batteries in smoke alarms; clean humidifiers.
- ✓ **Exterior**
Look for cracked glass and broken seals on storm windows. Look for moisture or rotting at thresholds. Install weather stripping. Repair deteriorated finish or paint on siding; caulk spalling mortar in wood siding; if your exterior is brick or stone, replace any missing mortar.
 - Shut off and drain outdoor faucets.
 - Make sure storm drains are clear.
 - Repair cracks in the driveway and sidewalks.
- ✓ **Basement**
Insulate all pipes that are exposed to cold surfaces. Have the furnace serviced; service all radiators and valves. Check the water heater for leaks and rust.

Where utility bills are concerned, smaller is better; install pocket doors and save

Q We are planning to build a new home soon, and we want it to be efficient (our budget is tight). I have heard that it is best to use interior pocket doors in an efficient house. Is this really true?

A: Pocket doors alone will not lower your utility bills or building costs. What they will do is allow you to build a smaller-square-footage house with the same usable floor space. There is a lot of wasted space in most houses just to provide room for standard hinged doors.

On Your Utility Bill

James Duley

A smaller house will have lower monthly utility bills because there is less wall and roof area. With everything else being equal, a house with twice as much roof and wall area as a smaller house will require twice as much energy to keep it warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Pocket doors, especially the new

decorative ones, are very attractive. Since the doors do not swing, you can place plants, lamps or other ornamental items on either side of them. For example, double French pocket doors can create a dramatic entrance to a dining or a living room.

It is easy to install pocket doors during new construction. It is also possible to add them in an existing home if you need more living space, but you will have to remove a little drywall and wall framing first. In either case, it is not a difficult job for

the average handyman.

Many companies make complete do-it-yourself pocket door framing/hardware kits. These kits include everything you need — preassembled header unit, split studs, roller/hangers and even a wrench.

When comparing the various kits, look for ones with steel reinforced split studs. Most use these. A telescoping preassembled rail eliminates the need to cut it to size. Many of the header boards come premarked for various sized doors so you will know

where to cut it for a perfect fit.

Most pocket door kits are designed to handle a door up to about 125 pounds. There are heavy-duty kits available for doors up to 250 pounds (Georgia Door and John Sterling). First select the doors that you plan to use so you know the weight capacity of the pocket door kit hardware required.

Q: I have heard that ducts from the furnace are a major energy waster in most homes. My sheet metal ducts look good to me.

How can I tell if mine are?

A: Furnace ducts lose heat in many ways: air leaks at joints, air flow through the sheet metal, heat is still in your house (because have attic ducts), but it is not getting to the living areas.

Close the register outside and then check the sheet metal joints for leaks. Clean off and wrap them with duct minimum tape. Install 2-inch insulation on all the ducts you can reach.

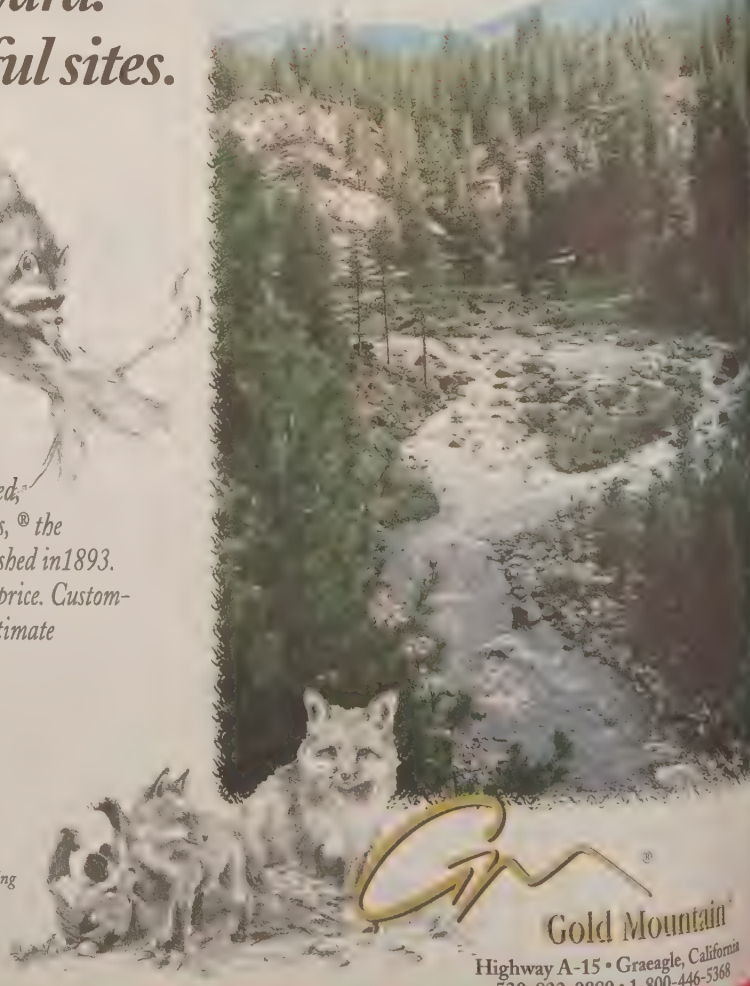
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WEEKLY HOME SALES

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ALAMEDA	
1170 9th St #11 - \$145,000	
1170 9th St - \$300,500	
1170 9th St - \$215,000	
1170 9th St - \$105,000	
1170 9th St - \$305,000	
1170 9th St - \$260,000	
1170 9th St #85 - \$293,000	
1170 9th St - \$290,000	
1170 9th St - \$262,000	
1170 9th St - \$230,000	
1170 9th St - \$485,000	
1170 9th St #315 - \$165,000	
1170 9th St - \$549,000	
1170 9th St - \$570,000	
1170 9th St - \$319,000	
1170 9th St #6 - \$250,000	
1170 9th St - \$445,000	
1170 9th St - \$302,000	
1170 9th St - \$550,000	
1170 9th St - \$465,000	
1170 9th St - \$370,000	
1170 9th St - \$635,000	
1170 9th St - \$390,000	
1170 9th St - \$320,000	
1170 9th St - \$179,500	
1170 9th St - \$128,000	
1170 9th St - \$120,000	
1170 9th St - \$300,000	
1170 9th St - \$348,000	

ALBANY	
728 Cornell Av - \$202,000	
1034 Evelyn Av - \$321,000	
929 Jackson St - \$340,000	
619 Kains Av - \$328,000	
629 Key Route Bl - \$272,000	
1222 Marin Av - \$321,000	
514 Masonic Av - \$336,000	
555 Pierce St #D385 - \$135,000	
555 Pierce St #J111 - \$145,000	
832 Ramona Av - \$351,000	
848 Stannage Av #10 - \$143,000	

BERKELEY	
1340 8th St - \$438,000	
2600 Ashby Av #1 - \$195,000	
1730 Bancroft Wy - \$300,000	
1534 Beverly Pl - \$450,000	
2141 Browning St - \$365,000	
917 Camelia St - \$438,000	
1471 Campus Dr - \$450,000	
1832 Carleton St - \$215,000	
1215 Cedar St - \$407,500	
1237 Curtis St - \$155,000	
153 Fairlawn Dr - \$587,000	
1772 Hilgard Av - \$825,000	
1120 Jefferson Av #3 - \$163,000	
1020 MLK Jr Wy - \$245,000	
1141 Oregon St #2 - \$220,000	
1525 Oregon St - \$252,000	

819 Oxford St - \$520,000
927 Oxford St - \$560,000
1849 Shattuck Av #405 - \$265,000
165 Vicente Rd - \$259,000
541 Vismont Av - \$607,000
2632 Warring St #3 - \$236,000

EL CERRITO	
1417 Everett St - \$239,000	
816 Galvin Dr - \$395,000	
5945 Jordan Av - \$137,500	
1116 Richmond St - \$162,000	
7777 Terrace Dr - \$403,000	

EL SOBRANTE	
971 Allview Av - \$142,000	
644 Andrews Wy - \$187,000	
4401 Berman Av - \$170,000	
3536 Carlfield Rd - \$135,000	
4247 Fariss Ln - \$235,000	
778 Kelvin Rd - \$160,000	
5624 San Pablo Dam Rd - \$215,000	
2668 San Pablo Dam Rd - \$220,000	

EMERYVILLE	
2 Admiral Dr #B172 - \$196,000	
4 Admiral Dr #B235 - \$135,000	
3 Captain Dr #303 - \$110,000	
4 Captain Dr #E405 - \$150,000	
6363 Christie Av #1113 - \$210,000	
6363 Christie Av #1312 - \$165,500	
6363 Christie Av #2326 - \$360,000	
6363 Christie Av #2625 - \$179,000	
8 Commodore Dr #253 - \$300,000	
4312 Essex St - \$170,000	

KENSINGTON	
10 Kenilworth Ct - \$650,000	
21 Kingston Rd - \$370,000	
329 Rugby Av - \$500,000	

OAKLAND	
1913 102nd Av - \$115,000	
2363 108th Av - \$182,000	
2435 11th Av - \$125,000	
1629 11th St - \$90,000	
1732 18th Av - \$213,000	
2601 19th Av - \$130,000	
1522 25th Av - \$185,000	
2451 25th Av - \$125,000	
831 32nd St - \$175,000	
687 35th St - \$80,000	
836 42nd St - \$166,500	
437 45th St - \$360,000	
380 50th St - \$325,000	
808 52nd St - \$1,800,000	
910 54th Av - \$131,500	
631 54th St - \$199,000	
1336 58th Av - \$135,000	
1550 5th Av - \$120,000	
660 60th St - \$197,000	
2933 61st Av - \$132,000	
649 61st St - \$197,000	
2243 64th Av - \$115,000	
1424 65th Av - \$134,000	

ON THE AVERAGE	
ALAMEDA	
TOTAL SALES: 30	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$105,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$635,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$300,500	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$322,533	

EL CERRITO	
TOTAL SALES: 11	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$135,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$351,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$272,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$263,091	

EMERYVILLE	
TOTAL SALES: 22	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$155,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$825,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$300,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$370,568	

EL CERRITO	
TOTAL SALES: 5	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$137,500	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$403,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$162,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$267,300	

EL SOBRANTE	
TOTAL SALES: 8	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$135,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$235,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$170,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$183,000	

KENSINGTON	
TOTAL SALES: 10	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$110,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$360,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$170,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$197,550	

475 65th St - \$301,000
2001 69th Av - \$85,000
926 70th Av - \$110,000
1045 73rd Av - \$75,000
2474 82nd Av - \$124,000
1283 83rd Av - \$115,000
2027 84th Av - \$120,000
1619 88th Av - \$105,000
1316 93rd Av - \$94,000
88 Anair Wy - \$175,000
11021 Apricot St - \$127,500
3600 Balfour Av - \$332,000
389 Belmont St #408 - \$220,000
6492 Benvenue Av - \$351,500
3068 Birdsall Av - \$115,000
3033 Blossom St - \$150,000

EMERYVILLE	
TOTAL SALES: 3	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$370,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$650,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$500,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$506,667	

OAKLAND	
TOTAL SALES: 115	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$75,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,800,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$173,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$248,296	

ALBANY	
TOTAL SALES: 1	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$325,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$325,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$325,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$325,000	

EMERYVILLE	
TOTAL SALES: 46	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$77,500	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$850,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$210,435	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$210,435	

SAN LEANDRO	
TOTAL SALES: 23	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$110,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$400,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$226,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$230,087	

SAN LORENZO	
TOTAL SALES: 6	
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$149,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$266,000	
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$215,000	
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$216,500	

9500 C St - \$89,000
2966 California St - \$321,000
311 Catron Dr - \$127,000
5655 Colbourne Pl - \$325,000
2600 Cole St - \$186,000
5733 Colton Bl - \$341,000
4117 Coolidge Av - \$410,000
2365 Courtland Av - \$163,000
5459 Crittenden St - \$140,000
4157 Culver St - \$163,000
3473 Davis St - \$145,000
223 Duncan Wy - \$489,000
4117 East 17th St - \$110,000
4512 Edgewood Av - \$390,000
7 Embarcadero West #306 - \$160,000
1 Embarcadero - \$86,000

1 Embarcadero - \$86,000
6620 Estates Dr - \$780,000
4701 Fairfax Av - \$110,000
362 Fairmount Av - \$220,000
793 Fairview St - \$132,000
3979 Fairway Av - \$280,000
676 Florence Av - \$750,000
10335 Foothill Bl - \$160,000
2338 Foothill Bl - \$115,000
3824 Forest Hill Av - \$240,000
801 Franklin St #1227 - \$168,000
801 Franklin St #516 - \$140,000
2821 Fruitvale Av - \$165,000
4744 Geranium Pl - \$325,000
5970 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$565,000
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6700 Gunn Dr - \$710,000
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7600 Holly St - \$175,000
3877 Howe St #209 - \$80,000
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385 Jayne Av #210 - \$85,000
3833 Laguna Av - \$190,000
1830 Lake Shore Av #111 - \$190,000
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4200 Lincoln Av - \$335,000
10422 Longfellow Av - \$135,000
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4404 Masterson St - \$190,000
3680 Maybelle Av - \$139,500
2615 Minna Av - \$198,000
6508 Mokelumne Av - \$155,000
6000 Monadnock Wy - \$120,500
6551 Pinehaven Rd - \$410,000
5839 Presley Wy - \$515,000
813 Prospect Av - \$550,000
2176 Ransom Av - \$173,000
715 Rosal Av - \$350,000
1033 Rose Av - \$445,000
3929 Ruby St - \$170,000
580 Santa Ray Av - \$332,000
2727 School St - \$132,500
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216 Sextus Rd - \$105,000
8265 Skyline Ct - \$528,000
7131 Snake Rd - \$481,000
4995 Stacy St - \$270,000
7605 Sunskist Dr - \$173,000
3190 Texas St - \$197,000
4420 Tulip Av - \$250,000
85 Vernon St #211 - \$87,000
5318 Walnut St - \$231,000
1024 Winsor Av - \$465,000

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260 Estates Dr - \$325,000	
RICHMOND	
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900 26th St - \$185,000	
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6325 Arlington Bl - \$220,000	
4315 Barrett Av - \$104,000	
4401 Berman Av - \$170,000	
424 C St - \$124,000	
467 Carlston St - \$300,000	
474 Carlston St - \$250,000	
474 Carlston St - \$250,000	
2547 Chanslor Av - \$148,000	
26 Clear Water Ct - \$288,000	
2640 Clinton Av - \$169,000	
4935 Clinton Av - \$202,000	
5526 Clinton Av - \$140,000	
2720 Downer Av - \$128,000	
2726 Downer Av - \$128,000	
1500 Emeric Av - \$132,500	
3428 Esmond Av - \$202,000	
5813 Fresno Av - \$247,000	
1710 Hoffman Bl - \$158,000	
2004 Hoffman Bl - \$156,000	
2748 Joann Dr - \$158,000	
3524 Lowell Av - \$122,000	
863 Maison Wy - \$510,000	
3200 McBryde Av - \$130,000	
1323 Monterey St - \$135,000	
1301 Quarry Ct #401 - \$380,000	
865 Ridgedale Ct - \$375,000	
5318 Ridgeview Ct #52 - \$77,500	
5916 Sacramento Av - \$238,000	
1488 Sanford Av - \$125,000	
1611 Shasta St - \$270,000	
1548 Solitude Ln - \$275,000	
637 South 15th St - \$94,000	
214 South 23rd St - \$850,000	
144 South Harbour Wy - \$116,500	
436 South Marina Wy - \$81,500	
4839 State Ct - \$137,000	
3117 Stone Cliff Ct - \$252,500	
3119 Stone Cliff Ct - \$247,000	
3121 Stone Cliff Ct - \$255,000	
507 Vista Heights Rd - \$185,000	
3937 Wesley Wy - \$191,000	

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DANVILLE/PLEASANTON.....\$1,285,000

5BD, 3.5BA

Sprawl

FROM PAGE B1

way we live."

Clearly, it is time to address the mess we've made. We should, however, understand the factors that brought us to that point, or we might, to alter the old saw a bit, be condemned to repeat ourselves.

Sprawl is a result not only of historical forces, planning philosophy and geography, but also of American ideals. To change living patterns, do we have to modify minds and hearts as well as zoning laws and streetscapes?

Forget a chicken in every pot. What Americans have always wanted is a house with a yard. In a country in which life is not centered around the cathedral or the palace, our homes have truly become our castles.

"The American idea that cities could be made almost entirely of free-standing private houses with their own gardens was an original notion, at least in Western culture," architectural historian Witold Rybczynski writes in his book "City Life." "It was a powerful cultural idea that would later create all sorts of difficulties as urban areas spread ever more widely to accommodate this desire."

The notion of a plot of one's own runs deep. Thomas Jefferson envisioned America as the land of rural self-reliance. The pioneers fulfilled their manifest destiny with a little house on the prairie. America started building suburbs by the mid-19th century. No wonder returning World War II soldiers leapt at the chance for a tract house in Levittown, the subdivisions in New York and Pennsylvania whose name became synonymous with suburbia. The desire has not abated until recently, when some have come to question whether the costs outweigh the benefits.

Suburbia is the yin to the American city's yang. According to David Galanter, author of "A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context," we began moving out of cities in response to industrial factories belching smoke, overpopulation and the shifting social order caused by immigration.

"The development pattern of concentric rings of residential suburbs segregated from commercial zones became defining characteristics of the American experience," he writes.

American capitalism egged on unplanned, or expedient, growth. Chicago, for instance, gave up its lakeside to the railroads. The Windy City also gave birth to the skyscraper, which changed the scale of cities and the real estate value of downtown property. In fact, it helped create the idea of downtown as distinct from residential neighborhoods, and reinforced the segregated planning patterns. (Even the ranch house, the stereotypical suburban home, originated in part in Chicago with Frank Lloyd Wright's horizontal, open-plan Prairie houses; Wright also invented the carport.)

Of course, suburbs kept expanding because they could. Unlike Europe, America boasted lots of open space, and, thanks to Henry Ford, we had the means to go where we wanted. The Model T first rolled off the assembly line in 1913. By 1925, Americans owned about 20 million cars.

We like to paint all suburbs with the same damning brush. But prized in-town neighborhoods such as Ansley Park were originally suburbs before growing cities absorbed them. Some of our earliest, pre-automobile suburbs were more compact because their residents depended on rail or trolley. The street was a public space rather than a conduit for cars. Places such as Chestnut Hill, outside Philadelphia, had their own commercial centers, too. Unfortunately, post-automobile subdivisions were

more like Radburn, N.J. Built in 1928 and billed as a town for the motor age, it featured open space, curving roads and cul-de-sacs, and, since the street was given over to cars, houses turned their backs on the traffic.

The suburbs really started sprawling after World War II, with the swelling population of returning GIs and their families and low-cost government mortgage loans. By 1950, developer Levitt and Sons was producing a four-room house every 16 minutes. Folk singer Pete Seeger immortalized the result in Malvina Reynolds' "Little Boxes," his famous song about ticky-tacky suburbia.

Strip centers and malls closer to home quickly replaced downtown as retail and even civic centers. Between 1960 and 1970, 8,000 shopping centers were built. In the next two decades, the number swelled by 25,000. Commercial development followed the population. What resulted are "edge cities," aggregations of office parks, shopping malls and subdivisions navigated only by car. They obviated the need to go to the city at all.

Becoming stagnant

As the suburbs grew, cities withered. Between 1930 and 1945, urban centers stopped gaining population. Already blighted by industry and slums, they suffered at the hands of wrongheaded zoning.

"None of the early movements ad-

vocating orderly planning had a provision for regulating private property, so zoning became the planning device," says Randall Roark, a professor of urban planning at Georgia Tech. "Though zoning laws were intended to protect residential districts from commercial encroachment, they ended up isolating pieces of the city."

The combination of zoning, modernist planning and architecture was almost lethal. Planners in the thrall of French architect Le Corbusier came close to instituting his vision of "La Ville Radieuse," a cityscape of high-rise islands connected by roadways.

The refined sensibilities of the best modernist structures, such as, say, Mies van der Rohe's Seagram Building in New York, devolved into acres of cheaply constructed flat-top curtain-wall buildings as boringly uniform and placeless as the suburban subdivisions were accused of being. Siting them as lone objects in paved plazas made the city more lifeless. Applying those architectural and planning principles to low-cost housing only ensured more slums. Urban renewal it was not.

Freeways at full speed

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Interstate Highway Act of 1956 paved the way for more urban destruction, as expressways rolled through downtowns and neighborhoods. No won-

der planning patriarch Lewis Mumford called the cloverleaf the national flower.

Civic leaders tried all manner of attempts to revive their cities — pedestrian main streets, festival marketplaces, aquariums, tax incentives — with limited success. They even brought suburban-style housing and shopping into the city. Faced with lousy schools, crime and urban decay, Americans continued to decamp to the green beyond.

Here and there, cities garnered support. In 1961, Jane Jacobs blasted modernist planning and advocated for dense, mixed-use urban blocks in "The Death and Life of Great American Cities." That same year, architect John Portman, in the true spirit of urban renewal, anchored the convention business downtown by building the Merchandise Mart. The 1972 demolition of Pruitt-Igoe, a high-rise housing project in St. Louis, was official acknowledgment of the failure of these environments for improving the well-being of poor residents.

Other forces came into play. The preservation movement popularized the idea of finding new uses for old buildings we ordinarily tore down. In 1965, old warehouses near Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco were revived as Ghirardelli Square.

Changing architecture

Architect Robert Venturi, co-author of the influential 1966 book "Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture," argued that buildings designed to reflect the complexity of cityscapes and also to the importance of living cities.

On the neighborhood level, don architect Leon Krier tried to correct the organization of the industrial city. He was joined by architects Andres Durr and both Plater-Zyberk, who introduced a small lot and carport to the public spaces, and a front porch, the space walking. It was a return to urbanism, the planning that preaches values.

Other anti-sprawl movements sounded in the past years to promote denser development in, Portland, Ore., drew a development line in the urban will not extend water and sewer beyond that point. Near Milwaukee will start dismantling freeway system that came downtown. All over the country, children of those who had their noses at the city started

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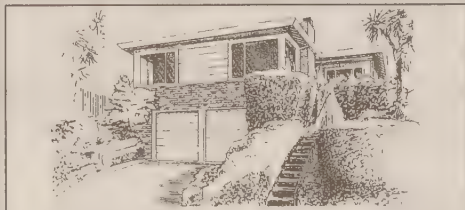
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Wilson

PAGE B1

proposal for a "central park" became a major campaign issue.

The site was described in an early report by the Park Board of Commissioners as "a most pestilential spot, where miasmatic odors taint every breath of air."

But the land was cheap. It only cost \$5.5 million in 1856 to purchase the 840 acre site, which is larger than the present-day principality of Monaco. In 1857, a competition was held to determine the future park's design.

The winning design was by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. Their plan called for a mixture of glades, woods, waterways and rock outcroppings. Several bridges were designed by Vaux, and all of the footpaths, bridle paths, and curved carriage drives were designed by Olmsted. Olmsted also designed the four sunken traverse roads, which were then revolutionary.

It took 20 years to complete the construction of Central Park. Today Central Park has so many popular amenities that it would take an entire column just to list them. It is a familiar place to millions of Americans who haven't even been to New York City, as it has been used so frequently as a cinematic backdrop — most notably in the films of Woody Allen, but also to advantage in "When Harry Met Sally" and others.

Central Park has served as a prototype for dozens of other major urban parks throughout the United

States., including San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

World's Fairs

World's Fairs often provided the impetus for creating great urban landscaped spaces. In 1890, Congress awarded Chicago permission to host the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The site the city's leaders chose was an area on Chicago's southern fringes that was to become Jackson Park. At that time, the site was an undeveloped patch of marsh and swamplands.

Within two-and-a-half years, the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 opened on this site, which had been converted into a 700-acre dream world known as the "White City."

The fairgrounds included the first Midway, an amusement zone that would become a standard feature of county and state fairs thereafter. The Midway today is a grassy meridian that runs down the center of the University of Chicago campus, serving as the university's "front yard."

But the greatest legacy of the Columbian Exposition was the "City Beautiful Movement" founded by the supervising architect of the fairgrounds, Daniel Burnham.

According to Burnham, all large American cities should have carefully designed and beautifully landscaped public open spaces, such as civic centers, plazas, and city parks. The City Beautiful Movement ex-

erted a major influence on the design of open spaces in big American cities for more than 30 years.

The civic centers of San Francisco and Oakland were directly inspired by this philosophy.

Golden Gate Park

Out on the West Coast, the city fathers of San Francisco began to see the need to create a large urban park of their own by the 1860s. In 1865, several civic and business leaders invited Frederick Olmsted to San Francisco to discuss improvements to city planning.

Olmsted advised city fathers to set aside a large tract of land for a major, landscaped park that would provide similar amenities to Olmsted's Central Park plan.

The site was selected in 1869, and the original plan was drawn up by William Hammond Hall in 1871, who then became the park's supervisor. But the problem of how to deal with the site's shifting sand dunes was not solved until landscape architect

John McLaren became the park's supervisor in 1887.

McLaren was a disciple of Frederick Olmsted, and followed many of the same concepts Olmsted had used in Central Park.

During McLaren's 55 year tenure as park director (until 1942), the major features of Golden Gate Park were installed: the Alvarado Bridge, the footpaths and roadways, the Dutch windmill, the bandshell, the children's quarters and the Conservatory and flower garden.

In 1894, the Midwinter Exposition was held in Golden Gate Park, which was sort of a small-scale echo of Chicago's Columbian Exposition. It was this fair that gave us the treasured legacy of the Japanese Tea Garden, the park's most frequently visited attraction. It also led to the creation of the original De Young Museum of Art.

De Young building threatened

The building that houses the De Young Memorial Museum, designed

in 1916 by Louis Christian Mullgardt, is slated for demolition.

Plans by the museum's board of directors call for it to be replaced with — in my opinion — an inappropriate, plain modern concrete building that doesn't blend in with the natural beauty of the park around it. Given their sensibilities, I fear Frederick Olmsted and John McLaren would find this plan unfortunate as well.

A grassroots campaign, "People for a New De Young Museum," aims to stop planners from disrupting the carefully-planned landscape of one of the Bay Area's greatest treasures.

Next week: Let's turn to some of the East Bay Area's most revered and historic urban open spaces.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at www.topbroker.com/wilson.

Wilson

Central Park

contrast, New York's Central Park was largely the result of one man's far-sighted vision of the future of his city. Its designer, Frederick Law Olmsted, was America's professional landscaper. Olmsted sometimes is called the "father of American landscape architecture" due to his role in creating so many great urban spaces throughout the United States, of which Central Park is only the most known.

The idea for a large city park in the center of Manhattan originated with poet and New York City newspaper editor William Cullen Bryant, who wrote an editorial calling for the creation of such a park in 1844.

At that time, Greenwich Village was considered "uptown," and many people ridiculed the suggestion that New York would need such a large park so far north on Manhattan Island. But the city grew so rapidly that the mayoral election of 1850, the

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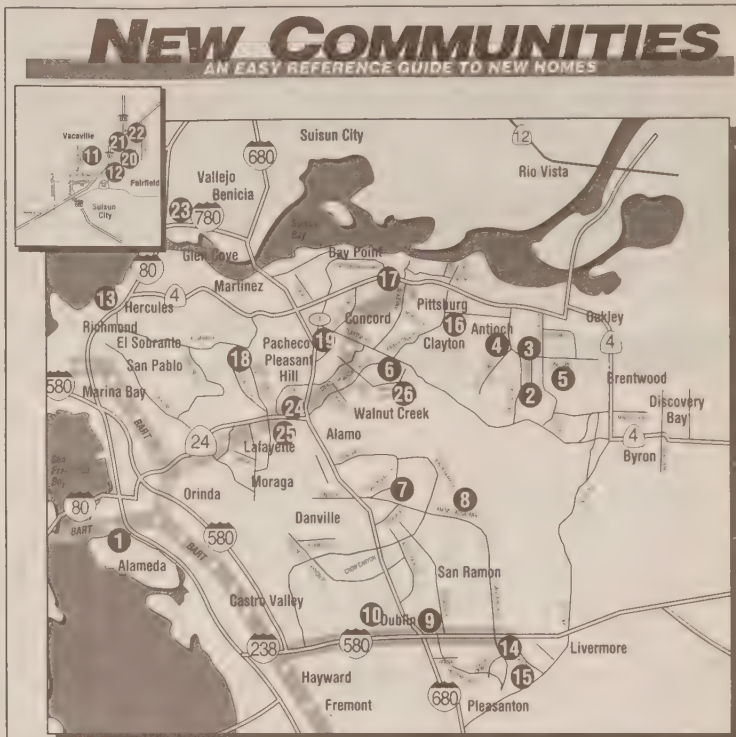
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- ALAMEDA**
- 1 The Gardens**
From low \$300,000's. 3 & 4BR, 2 story, 2 car gar., 1365-1676 sq ft. Great rooms, lots available! Alameda's newest! Also available at Starward/Dublin Webster Tube/Buena Vista to models. Open 10-5, Tues 12-5. 510-521-5347. www.schulerca.com
- HERCULES**
- 13 Belleterre**
From \$306,880. New Release! 4BR, 3BA, 2 or 3 car gar. Opt. 5th BR, den or super family rm. Steel-built, structured cabling. Bay views, country setting, easy commutes. 180 to San Pablo Rd. to Hercules Ave. to Titan Way. Open 10-5, Tues 12-5. 510-741-9165 or www.schulerca.com
- ANTIOCH**
- 2 Castellana at Black Diamond Knolls**
From the \$230,000's. New Release! Richland's distinctive tower accented architecture is a must see. Lrg. 4 & 5 BR, 2200-2600 sq ft. w/3 car gar., country kit, 7000+ sq ft. lots. Lone Tree to Mokelumne Dr. Open 11-5. 925-706-8555 or www.richmondamerican.com
- 3 Lone Tree Estates-Masters Collection**
From high \$200,000's. Up to \$5K allowances! Final Phase. Rec. ctr./pool/spa/hot tub/more! 1 & 2 story, 2127-2896 sq ft., 3-BR/3 car gar., ext. amenities & opt. Lone Tree/Murwood. Davidson Homes. Open 10-5. 925-778-3092
- 4 Tourelle**
From low \$300,000's. New Release! Richland's European-style estate homes. 2715-3935 sq ft., 4-6 BR, 3 & 4 car gar., 1 & 2 stories. Lots avg. 10,000+ sq ft. Dramatic interiors, fine mss., master comm. nr. open space. Lone Tree to Golf Course Rd. 11-5. 925-706-8555 or www.richmondamerican.com
- BRENTWOOD**
- 5 Diablo Vista**
From the \$200,000's. Grand Opening Celebration! Affordable luxury living! Exciting new single-family neighborhood wide open to 2700 sq ft., 5BR, 3BA. Central commute loc. at Fairview & San Jose. Richmond American Homes. www.richmondamerican.com 925-516-7193.
- CONCORD**
- 6 Crystall Ranch**
From mid \$400,000's. New Release! Exciting neighborhood, luxury homes by Legacy Homes. Nestled among rolling hills, 4 spacious fireplaces. 2400-3400 sq ft. elegant interiors, customizing options. Ygnacio Vly/rt. at Pine Hollow Rd to Rolling Woods Way. 925-687-3522. www.legacyluxuryhomes.com
- DANVILLE**
- 7 Campbell Place**
From the \$800,000's. Ltd. edition of only 20 craftsman-style exec homes on lrg. view lots w/flexible floorplans 680 to Sycamore Vly. Rd. E. rt. onto Camino Tassajara. Left on Glasgow Dr. rt. on Glasgow Vly. Dr. rt. on Campbell Pl. By Pacific Union Homes. 925-743-0238
- 8 Shadow Creek Manor**
From low \$600,000's. Selling Final Phase! Closeout Sale! 4-5 BR. Take 680 to Crow Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara, follow signs. Open 10-5, closed Wed/Thurs. 925-736-7969
- DUBLIN**
- 9 Merriam at Emerald Park**
From high \$300,000's. NEW RELEASE! Models open. Luxury living in master-planned community with 3 home designs up to 2200 sq ft., 5 BR & 3 baths. Lrg. super family room, retreat options. Near I-580 & Dublin BART. Highlands ext. no. off 580. Open daily 10-5, Mon 2-5. Richmond American Homes. www.richmondamerican.com 925-829-8029
- 10 Starward**
From low \$300,000's. 3-4BR, 2BA, 2 story, steel built. Garden setting/ views/whwy access/shopping/schools. 580/exit San Ramon No./rt. Amador Vly./rt. Starward Dr. www.schulerca.com or 925-875-1060
- FAIRFIELD**
- 11 First Green at Rancho Solano CC**
From the \$300,000's. Surrounded by 3 fairways & views of rolling hills. Loc. in established neighborhood, w/shopping nearby. 4-5 BR, 2952-3429 sq ft., 2-3 car gar. Easy commuting w/I-680. Centex Homes. 707-428-5211.
- 12 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley**
From mid \$200,000's. Grand Opening! Spacious, to 7BR, 4BA, 3 plans, 2200-3400 sq ft. Richmond American Homes. Open 10-5/Mon 2-30-5, 1-80 exit N. Texas St. rt. left on Dickson Hill/rt. on Manuel Campos Pkwy/rt. on Paradise Vly. 707-438-7800. www.richmondamerican.com
- 13 Highlands Ranch**
From low \$200,000's. Beautifully designed, 1134-3540 sq ft., 3-5BR, 283 car gar., opt. incl. dens, loft, media cabling system. Near shopping schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Livermore & Somerville. (925) 438-9070. Seeno Homes. www.seenohomes.com
- 14 Monterra II, Summit Collection**
From mid \$200,000's. 4-6 BR w/options to 7. Three floorplans, 1615-4243 sq ft., 3 car gar., great opt. inc. second mstr. BR, dens, mstr. retreats. Nr. hwy's, walk to BART. Hwy 4 to Bailey Rd. so. rt. on Leland, left on Southwood. 925-709-1037. www.seenohomes.com
- PLEASANT HILL**
- 15 Grayson Woods**
From low \$500,000's. Up to \$15K allowance! View & Cul-de-sac. Lot! Perfect loc. for commuters. Two-story, 2212-3135 sq ft., 3-6BR, 3 car gar. Future golf course, low maint., 4 mi. to 3 hwy's/BART. Taylor Blvd. to Grayson. Davidson Homes. Open 10-5, Mon 1-5. 925-274-0800
- VACAVILLE**
- 20 Brighton at Westgate**
From the \$190,000's. Beautifully designed 3 & 4 BR Seeno homes, 4 floorplans, 1432-1943 sq ft., 2 car garage, convenient location 180 to Alamo Dr. to Peabody to Foxboro. 707-446-6243 / www.seenohomes.com
- 21 Diamond Grove**
From mid \$160,000's. Gated active adult comm. Contemporary 1 story homes. Beaut. pvt. rec. ctr./w/game rms., swimming & more! Open 11-5 1-80 to Orange Dr., follow to Orange Tree Cir. 707-447-5800 or 707-447-5900
- 22 Village Hills**
From mid \$100,000's. No Mello Roos! Beaut. Estate style, to 3312 sq ft., 3 & 4 BR, 3 car garages. Easy access to hwy's/shopping. Take Elmina exit off I-80, East to Beeland. 707-454-0162. www.seenohomes.com
- 23 VALLEJO**
- Crystal Pointe**
From the \$190,000's. FINAL PHASE! Hillside homes in established neighborhood w/whwy access of Carquinez Strait. 3 Plans to 1613 sq ft., 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Great commute loc. near I-80. Open Sat./Mon. www.richmondamerican.com Richmond American Homes. 707-643-5486
- WALNUT CREEK**
- 24 Laurel Estates**
From \$494,900. PHASE I Pre-Model Sale. LCI Homes presents 13 luxury homes on estate lots, 4-6BR, 2450-2800 sq ft., creek, mature trees. Loc. at Larkley Ln & Geary Rd., grt. access to 680, 24 & BART. Open Wed/Thurs 1-5, Fri/Sat/Sun 10-5. NRS Brokers, 925-935-9152
- 25 Laurel Glen**
Mid \$400,000's to mid \$500,000's. Delco Bldrs. Affordability & style in 3 spacious plans. Close to W.C. schools, 24 & 680, downtown Lafayette & W.C. Open Sat/Sun. 2568 Lucy Ln. 925-975-5205
- 26 Oak Creek & Shadow Brook Estates**
From \$829,900. Estate homes by Delco Bldrs. on 1 ac. lots against rolling hills/Mt. Diablo. Close to parks, schools. One of best loc. in East Bay. Distinctive architecture, dramatic int., complete amenities. Open Sat/Sun. 3899 Oak Creek Ct. 925-256-9504

YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE OPEN HOMES OPEN SUNDAY*

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1471 Central	484/284	2-4	\$589,000
Suzanne Brown, Prudential CA Realty (925) 683-3729			
2719 Otis Dr	2 + 84/284	1-3	\$383,000
Barbara & Bill, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4714 or (510) 814-4888			
2719 Otis Dr	2 + 84/284	1-3	\$363,000
Barbara & Bill, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4714 or (510) 814-4888			
1821 Everett St	384/234	2-4	\$349,000
Darlene Gardner, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1104 or (510) 522-3781			
1821 Everett St	384/234	2-4	\$349,000
Darlene Gardner, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1104 or (510) 522-3781			
1821 Everett St	2 + 84/284	2-4	\$349,000
Darlene Gardner, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1104 or (510) 522-3781			
1305 Walnut St	34/234	2-4	\$339,900
Kristina Housh, Kline Realty (510) 483-1676			
759 Taylor Ave	4 + 84/284	1-4	\$325,000
DRASTIC PRICE REDUCED Emmanuel Macaluso, Mac Investments (510) 510-1441			
3517 McSherry	384/2 + 84	2-4	\$319,000
Marilyn P, Harbor Bay Realty (510) 814-4845			
2101 Shoreline Dr #240	384/2 + 84	2-4	\$280,000
Open house Saturday & Sunday Ruth Masarik, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1301			
2645 Pacific Ave.	2 + 84/284	2-4	\$259,000
Fred Hobbs, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1138			

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
22545 Pacific Ave.	2 + 84/284	2-4	\$259,000
Fred Hobbs, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1138			
1624 A Ninth St.	2 + 84/184	2-4	\$239,500
Open Saturday & Sunday Bill Housh, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1108			
1410 Hoover Ct	28/184	2-4	\$220,000
Los Drenick, Gallagher & Lindsey (510) 748-1105			
25 Tangewood	384/2 + 84	2-4	\$120,000
Aime Van Dyke, Templeton Co. (510) 652-2133 ext137			
2075 Emerson	484/4	2-4	\$376,000
Nancy Plattford, Prudential (510) 845-0200			
1463 Curtis	284/184	2-4	\$294,000
Mary Merial, Templeton Co. (510) 642-2133 ext132			
1515 Hopkins	284/184	2-4	\$219,000
Susan Schmitt, Templeton Co. (510) 652-2133 ext144			
548 Bonnie Drive	384/4	2-4	\$309,000
Richard Morrison, Marvin Gardens (510) 527-2700x22			

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
548 Bonnie Dr	384/4	2-4	\$309,000
Richard Morrison, Marvin Gardens (510) 527-2700 x 32			
548 Bonnie Dr	284/184	2-4	\$309,000
Richard Morrison, Marvin Gardens, (510) 527-2700 x32			
548 Bonnie Drive	384/4	2-4	\$309,000
Richard Morrison, Marvin Gardens (510) 527-2700x22			

EMERYVILLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1250 #7 184/184	2-4		\$229,000
Power			
Miriam Wilson, Prudential CA Realty (510) 888-8411			
384/4	2-4		\$309,000
Richard Morrison, Marvin Gardens (510) 527-2700x22			
1250 #7 184/184	2-4		\$229,000
Power			
Miriam Wilson, Prudential CA Realty (510) 888-8411			
384/4	2-4		\$309,000
Richard Morrison, Marvin Gardens (510) 527-2700x22			
1250 #7 184/184	2-4		\$229,000
Power			
Miriam Wilson, Prudential CA Realty (510) 888-8411			
384/4	2-4		\$309,000
Richard Morrison, Marvin Gardens (510) 527-2700x22			

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5285 Virgo Rd	484/2 + 84	2-4	\$889,000
Joan Allford, Montclair Caldwel Banker (510) 339-4700			
6461 Ascot Dr	4 + 84/384	2-4	\$840,000
Dick Cohen, Pacific Union (510) 339-4480			
2520 Burton	5 + 84/484	2-4	\$775,000
Montclair			
Michelle Miller, Pacific Union (510) 339-4480			
6363 Contra Costa Blvd	5 + 84/384	2-4	\$725,000
Upper Rockledge			
Ruth Lockhart, Montclair Caldwel Banker (510) 339-4700			
5970 Colton Blvd	484/3 +	2-4	\$680,000
Montclair			
Suzanne Brown, Prudential CA Realty (925) 683-3729			
6350 Contra Costa Rd	484/484	2-4	\$669,000
Rockledge upper			
Anne Feiler, Pacific Union (510) 339-4480			
40 Marsh Pl	2 + 84/384	2-4	\$575,000
Prudential side of Montclair			
Ruby Ng, Coldwell Banker (510) 339-4700			

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6818 Charing Cross	3 + 84/234	2-4	\$553,000
Oakland Hills			
Y.Jan-David, Prudential CA Realty (510) 339-4280			
6833 Moore Dr	4 + 84/284	2-4	\$548,500
Piedmont Place			
Martha S. Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9006			
6833 Moore Dr	3 + 84/284	2-4	\$548,500
Piedmont Place			
Martha S. Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9006			
5460 Balboa Dr	3 + 84/284	2-4	\$515,900
Montclair			
David Kerr, Montclair Better Homes (510) 339-4480			
4615 Greenwood Ave	284/184	2-5	\$448,000
Glendale			
Pat Whittington, Montclair Caldwel Banker (510) 339-4700			
4624 Redwood Rd	384/2 + 84	2-4	\$429,000
Oakland Hills			
Angela Wei Smith, The GRIFFIN Co., (510) 339-0400			
6201 Auburn Ave	2 + 84/484	2-4	\$419,000
Rockledge			
Michelle Vasey, Pacific Union (510) 339-4480			
224 Stantonville Dr	484/2 + 84	2-4	\$395,000
Bay view			
Christine Clayburgh, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9006			
4651 Sebastian	484/4	2-4	\$395,000
Glendale Duplex, 21 - 1/1			
Hai & Edith Marcus, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9006			

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5801 Margard	484/4	2-4	\$389,000
House used as duplex			
Adriana Giacomelli, Pacific Union (510) 339-4480			
6252 Robinhood Way	484/284	2-4	\$375,000
Montclair			
J. McCannell, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9006			
7940 Hanson Dr	484/284	2-4	\$348,000
Sagebrush Hills			
Steve Clayburgh, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9006			
165 Chadbourne	384/284	2-4	\$338,000
Weldon Chen Case, La Salle Properties (510) 339-8900			
1 Kilton Court	384/2 + 84	2-4	\$338,000
Piedmont Ave			
Hart Buckle, The GRIFFIN Co., (510) 339-0400			
3585 Monterey Blvd	3 + 84/184	2-5	\$319,000
Redwood Heights			
Raele Dowell, Montclair Caldwel Banker (510) 339-4700			
1321 Bates Rd	284/184	2-4	\$280,000
Crescent Highlands			
Christine Clayburgh, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9006			
3168 California St.	284/184	2-4	\$279,000
Jan Wolf, La Salle Properties (510) 339-8900			
320 Lee St. #102	2 84/2 84	2-4	\$229,000
Washington Real Estate			

ORINDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
285 Geneva Blvd.			\$1,100,000
Site located, 925-475-4888			
510 Moraga			\$1,100,000
0 Riche, Prudential CA Realty			
2881 Gary			\$475,000
To Enquire, Monte Carlo, (510) 339-4480			
1424 23rd St			\$1,100,000
Test Wang, Prudential CA Realty			

RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2881 Gary			\$475,000
To Enquire, Monte Carlo, (510) 339-4480			

SAN PABLO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1424 23rd St			\$1,100,000
Test Wang, Prudential CA Realty			

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Parquet floors & berber carpet \$229,000 Manhattan Real Estate, 510-444-5300 SAN PABLO VA OWNED Quadline Dec. 14th, 13700 San Pablo Ave., #2126 2 bdrm., 2 ba., 578K Bkr. 1677-556-9858	705 Condominiums & Townhouses SAN RAMON Cobblestone 2 Bdrm., 2 Ba., pvt deck \$229,900 (925) 851-9549 708 Antioch 1119 E ST 3 bdrm., 1 ba, gar, new cpl. & roof, lg. fen. yd, nr schls. 925/757-0834 HILLCREST 2 bdr 2 ba, 3304 Baywood Cir. No Mello Roos \$161,900 925-776-7694 WYH RENT! \$1500 Moves you in 3 Bdrm 2 ba. Agt. 24 hrs. 925-335-0125 708A Bay Point LEASE OPT ON vacant 3 bdrm, 2 ba, trpic, A/C, dbl gar (925) 692-6241 710 Blackhawk EXQUISITE 5 Bdrm., & ofc., 6 1/2 ba, 6775 sq ft, island w/ sink 3 ovens, 2 dishwashers, sub zero ref in kit, 2 fam rms, very lg. mar. bdrm w/2 baths & walk-in closet, high ceilings, lots of balusters, in-pool sauna, 1 huge, enjoy other features \$2,499,000 Call for appt 925-736-3500 Listed exclusively with: Tassajara Vly RE	711 Brentwood BEST BUY in Summerset II, corner lot, lv. rm., dn. rm., 2bd w/2ba, fam. rm, w/rlplc, computer o/c, rm, high gas, upgrades + extras \$295K By owner 925-513-8141 713 Clayton 75 ACRES build your on it \$485,000 or offer Robins Ranches Agt. 925-672-7323 HORSE LOVERS! Gorgeous lg cabin home - barn - MT Diablo trails. Must sell. ROBS RANCHES 925-672-7323 MT DIABLO Acreage Homes O.K. \$110,000 Nice! Robins Ranches Agt. 925-672-7323 715 Concord 4 BEDROOM 2 ba, large lot, \$205K, 80dwn, w/d, credit & income, 5-28% APR Own-er/Ag. 1-800-774-5870x140 FIXER, 3 bdrm., - sun rm, dbl gar, 3453 Flamingo Dr. \$179K (925) 833-9829	717 Danville SYCAMORE AREA MT. DIABLO VIEWS UPDATED 5 Bdrm. - 3 Bath Over 2600 Feet 2 Fireplaces Vaulted Ceilings Ext. Molding Detail Separate Guest Suite White Kitchen New Roof Model Condition Priced at \$569,000 Monique 925/838-9823 Better Homes 925/284-9500 719 El Cerrito BY OWNER 6610 Hill St. Open Sat/Sun 10-5, as is make off 415/469-3269 721 Hercules HERCULES \$285K Bay & Hillside views, 3 bdrm/2 ba, Sec. 99, A/C 510/799-1424.	723 Lafayette 5 ACRES white home set up + home. Apts. only. Robs RANCHES 925-672-7323 725C Oakland 3 BEDROOM W/ots of charm & character in China Hills. Hdwrd - bonus rm den \$269K Agt. 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Sales \$1500 dn. \$842 mo/PI 741 Mariposa St. Rodeo 2 bdrm., \$119,000 \$3350 dn. \$735 mo/PI 233 Pineole Ave. Rodeo 2 bdrm., \$111,000 APR 8%, Bids taken daily Agt. 1-800-761-9507 734 Rossmore YOUR CHOICE of 2 exquisite & ideally located 1 bdrm., 1 ba, Brookgreens. Both are immac. w/exceptional views. Both offer covered carport pricing + HOA fee incl. meals, housekeeping. Agt. Danny Smith, (925) 932-4055 CLASSIFIED Quick & Easy! CLASSIFIED Quick & Easy! CLASSIFIED Quick & Easy!	737 San Pablo Government Resale Pittsburg, 1154 Summer Way 3 bdrm., 2 ba., \$180,000. Low Down 33 Alherton Dr. 3 bdrm., 2 1/2 ba, \$187,000 \$10,000 Down., Pool, new roof, Oakley, 4975 Driftwood Ct. 3 bdrm., 2 ba, \$139,000. 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World class rooms with a view

After builder Jeff Reuvenkamp lost his family home in the 1991 Oakland fire, he went right back to work. Reuvenkamp and designer Gary York rebuilt the home at the same site with special sensitivity to the environs.

In 1997 they put the finishing touches on a unique design. Knowing outdoor building space comes at a premium on steep hillsides, Reuvenkamp and York built an outdoor terrace off the central hall, and

decks from the breakfast room, the main office level (or guest bedroom), the master bathroom and two lower level bedrooms. The decks interconnect in an interesting living pattern perfect for outdoors activities or quiet reflection.

And where else can you get the views? Looking out from this home, you can see San Francisco, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Richmond Bridge and Marin County.

Offered in a very adaptable floor

plan are a sumptuous master suite, three full and one half baths, four bedrooms and den or three bedrooms and two offices.

There are maple floors, extensive use of granite and washed marble, top-of-the-line appliances and fixtures.

It all comes together at \$989,000. For more information, please call Dell Orr, Coldwell Banker, 510-339-4722.

T&T

FROM PAGE B2

seemingly forever. I sit and wait while the database sorts out what I've asked for. Printing is slow too.

■ I wish I could still compare total monthly or yearly sales in report form, as I could with the old system.

■ This system omits a message board, a clear advantage we enjoyed with the old system. Agents used to have a convenient spot to talk to one another. If an agent's open house was canceled at the last minute, or if a new listing was inadvertently left off of the agent open house list, it was easy to let other agents know by posting a message on the system.

Similarly, the instant a sale looked shaky or failed, or when a house wasn't available to be shown for a

short time (perhaps the owner fell ill), a message could quickly be sent to inform other agents.

■ While the system lets us update information, there are so many houses listed that it is almost impossible to keep up with the changes. Agents need to be able to send messages to one another through MLS.

■ And why doesn't this new software provide a membership roster? Agents move from office to office all the time. It used to be that we could look up any member agent and find out which office he was working in, also his address and current phone numbers. We can't do this anymore. Not that the agents aren't registered with the system — they are. When we change an active listing to a pending sale or post a closed sale, we have only to type in the cooperating agent's name and his identification pops up. It's an inconsistency.

■ Think it's easy to print out list-

ing sheets? In the client format, there's a way to get out of data time I want to use it. At point, but it's one of the frustrations that add up.

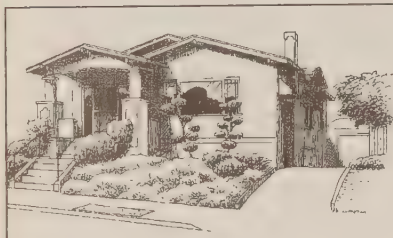
I wish that our vendor seemed more concerned with this most vital of our jobs. Agents do our job with

Anet Tarporoff is a licensed real estate agent. They also offer home consulting and can be reached by e-mail at patanet@aol.com or by 510-653-2050.

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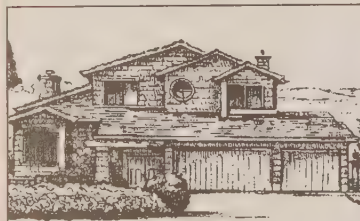
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OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 - 4:30 P.M.



1305 HAMPEL STREET.....\$305,000
NEW LISTING! Three bedrooms, one bath home in Glenview District. Lovely wood detail & architect detail. Hardwood floors, formal dining room, breakfast room, large kitchen, large bedrooms, fireplace, large yard. Patsy Buhler ext. 238

BY APPOINTMENT



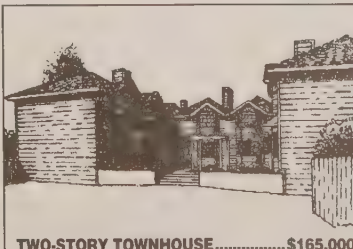
STUNNING BAY VIEW.....\$769,000
Four bedrooms, three bath home on large lot, exceptional kitchen/family room opens to huge deck. Three car garage, 2-zone heating, luxurious master suite. Chris Christensen ext. 242



4.3 ACRES IN ORINDA.....\$700,000
BACK ON MARKET! Two separate parcels. Developed parcel w/unique glass house plus 2 guesthouses. Undeveloped with Diablo view and level pad. Noll Davis ext. 263



NEW LISTING! PIEDMONT PINES.....\$380,000
Clean contemporary. Tranquil wooded setting just off Shepherd Canyon. Three bedrooms, 2 bath. Many recent upgrades. Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos 339-9780



TWO-STORY TOWNHOUSE.....\$165,000
Only 10 units in complex. About 1100 sq. ft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, living room with fireplace, European style, & full basement. Seller will credit for buyers closing cost, \$142 mo HO dues. Walk to shops, restaurants, & bus line to BART. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

LAND

SURROUNDED W/PRIVACY.....\$395,000
Nearly 1-acre and level. SF Bay & Contra Costa views. Area of expensive newly constructed homes. Utilities present. Includes drawings for home, One of a kind lot. Open to offer. Financing ava. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

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SPORTS

JV

Friday, December 10, 1999

Section C

Soccer Berkeley stuns San Ramon Valley [C2]

Arts Light a fire under your winter solstice [C3]

Panthers' wild playoff ride ends

St. Mary's should be proud of the way it went farther than anyone expected

By Scott Strain

DUBLIN — There was no "Hoosiers" ending for the St. Mary's football team last Friday night. The long ride of the improbable Panthers ended on a chilly night here at Dublin High School against a superior Foothill High team in the North Coast Section 2A Championship game.

The final, if you don't already know, was 27-8. Not even the emotional return of star back Eddie Smith could change the fortunes of this one. St. Mary's was defeated by a team that was on the top of its game. But gee, wasn't it great while it lasted?

"Oh yeah," coach Dan Shaughnessy said after a heartfelt prayer at the center of the field. "No one thought we would be here. No one gave us a chance. But we were here and we played a good football game. We just met a better one tonight."

A teary Trestin George stood at the center of the field, not quite in control of his emotions. "We wanted to win this one. We wanted to win it for the seniors," he said. "We made a couple of mistakes, and they (Foothill) didn't make any. That was

"No one thought we would be here. No one gave us a chance. But we were here and we played a good football game. We just met a better one tonight."

St. Mary's coach Dan Shaughnessy

the game."

There was no solace for the Panthers on this night — there will be later on when the team looks back at its remarkable achievement.

Remarkable year

And remarkable it was for St. Mary's, which finished with an 8-5 record.

First was a shocking 13-6 upset at No.

See PANTHERS, Page C2



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

ST. MARY'S HALIHL GUY hangs on for a group tackle against Foothill's Jeff Ravazza in the North Coast Section 2A football championship. The Panthers fell, 27-8, ending their wild playoff ride.

El Cerrito makes the best of bad breaks

Lady Gauchos respond in positive way to loss of senior winger Jones to a broken leg

By Peter Mentor

El Cerrito has had some bad breaks in the past, but losing Haley Jones to a broken leg has got to be one of the worst.

Jones was playing the final game of the club season when she tackled a player and cracked her shin. The El Cerrito senior went from important starter to bench member in one play.

That doesn't mean the team will be without Jones. She has become a de facto assistant coach. A three-year player with the team, she has a good relationship with coach Robert Sackey and a good sense of leadership with the players.

"She knows all about the team," said Sackey. "She is an assistant coach. When she sees something she'll be talking about it more than I will."

Sackey said he sends players over to Jones to talk about things on the field. They can argue with the coach, he said, but it's hard to say anything but the truth to a fellow player.

The loss of Jones on the field, however, has forced El Cerrito to do some juggling. Junior Natalie Faulkner moved into Jones' position at right wing.

Juliana Dragos usually plays the other wing, but she injured her leg and has to

See JONES, Page C2

Lady Gauchos soccer goes on a crash course

Eames' 21 goals leads team during a grueling string of nine games in 16 days

By Peter Mentor

It takes more than one player to make a team, but it helps if you've got someone who can put the ball between the posts.

Katie Eames is that player for the El Cerrito High School girls soccer team. The junior striker has scored 21 of her team's 32 during the preseason.

Eames' output helped the Lady Gauchos to a 6-2-1 preseason record as El Cerrito played the maximum number of

nonleague games it could before entering the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League season on Wednesday.

Her sister Kirsten Eames had six of goals as well. Between their goals and assists the Eames sisters have accounted for most of the team's offensive fire.

That said, other teams will know who to shut down, or at least who to try to shut down, and it will take the rest of the team to play at a higher level if the goal for the season is to be met.

That goal is to make the North Coast

Section playoffs. Realistically, only the two teams that make it to the ACCAL championship game will make it to North Coast. The favorites are defending league champion Piedmont High and runner-up Alameda High.

Last year El Cerrito made it to the six-team ACCAL playoffs, but the Lady Gauchos didn't even get close to the league finals. Instead, they lost to De Anza High in a game that was powerfully painful.

El Cerrito had beaten De Anza during the regular season and the Lady Gauchos had a 3-1 lead with 15 minutes to go in the playoff opener. Then everything fell apart.

See GAUCHOS, Page C2

Jackets taking it to the next step

Senior-laden Berkeley boys hoops have a Zillion reasons for optimism this year

By Scott Strain

There is probably no way that the Berkeley High School boys basketball team can improve upon what happened last season, but the Yellowjackets will try.

Berkeley has taken it on the chin from its East Bay Athletic opponents in football and baseball the past couple of years, but when it comes to basketball, that is another story: 'Jackets rule.

Last season Berkeley went 22-4 overall, 14-0 in the EBAL and lost to Bishop O'Dowd in the first round of the North Coast Section. This year's team would like to win another league championship and advance a little farther in the NCS. The Jackets could do it — the team has a solid core of veteran players and a winning tradition.

This is the last season the EBAL will

have a crack at the 'Jackets. Realignment comes next year with new league opponents, such as El Cerrito and Pinole Valley on the schedule.

"It make sense," coach Stelton Mitchell said about the realignment. "Especially in travel. We won't have to go all over creation and it will be easier for them to see us play. Also we will have some of our natural rivals on the schedule (such as El Cerrito) and that will make it more interesting."

Against El Cerrito last Thursday, Mitchell started five seniors and got some great play from Justin McDaniels, David Doubly and Austin Nichols.

"We still have as long way to go," Mitchell said, "but if we continue to work hard I think we'll be all right."

Berkeley has upcoming games against Skyline, Castlemont and Fremont, so the

"The guys all like each other and get along real well on the court and off the court. They complement each other."

Berkeley coach Stelton Mitchell

Yellowjackets' mettle will be tested before they get into league play. According to the Mitchell, the tenor of the team hasn't changed that much from last season.

"We're playing more as a team," he said. "The guys all like each other and get along real well on the court and off the court. They complement each other."

See JACKETS, Page C2

Berkeley's experience beats El Cerrito's youth

Jackets stop Gauchos 69-50 in boys hoops

By Scott Strain

EL CERRITO — Berkeley is old, El Cerrito is young. Berkeley wins, El Cerrito loses.

Cause and effect? Most definitely. Berkeley has a bevy of experienced players coming off an East Bay Athletic League championship and a berth in the North Coast Section Championships.

El Cerrito advanced all the way to the Division II state championship game, but lost Andrew Gooden to Kansas and Jovan Harris to St. Mary's. The Gauchos also have a new coach in Brent Daniels.

So when the two teams got together last Thursday afternoon in El Cerrito, it was pretty much all Berkeley. The Yellowjackets, coming off a 22-4 season, were 3-0 this season after beating the

Gauchos, 69-50. They had previously defeated Hogan of Vallejo and Vallejo. The Gauchos, who had defeated Hogan and Pinole Valley, dropped to 2-1.

"The guys were looking forward to playing El Cerrito," Yellowjackets coach Stelton Mitchell said. "It's always been a good rivalry. We did a good job on the boards and we did as good job containing number 22 (senior guard Jamal Hill). He can really put it up if you aren't on him real tight. We concentrated making him work with the ball and without the ball."

Center Justin McDaniels scored 12 of his 16 points in the first quarter as Berkeley raced away to a 20-11 lead. The Gauchos pretty much shut McDaniels down in the final three quarters, but the Yellowjackets

See BOYS, Page C2

Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

seed El Cerrito three weeks ago and then an equally stunning 32-26 overtime win at No. 3 De Anza to put St. Mary's into the championship against No. 2 Foothill. But the methodical Falcons (11-1-1) took any emotion the Panthers might have had and flung it back at them.

Senior quarterback Robert Knox, a three-year starter, drove Foothill to touchdowns the first two times it had the ball, completing six of seven passes for 76 yards and a touchdown. The first time the Falcons had the ball, running back Mike Ravazza, displaying some Smith-like moves, went 38 yards for a touchdown. The second time they had the ball, Knox threw 10 yards to tight end Dusty Partridge for a 14-0 lead.

At this point, St. Mary's was putting absolutely no pressure on Knox, but the Panther coaches changed some schemes and Knox was not nearly so proficient in the last three quarters, finishing with 10 completions in 20 attempts for 145 yards.

The first time St. Mary's had the ball, with Foothill leading 7-0, the Panthers drove from their own 31 to the Falcons' 10, the big play being a 30-yard pass from Michael Smith to Andre Kidd. But on a fourth-and-5 from the 10, George was dropped for a 4-yard loss by Matt Andrade and the Falcons took over. The first touchdown pass Knox threw came on Foothill's second possession.

"We just couldn't get it in," Shaughnessy said. "I felt that if we got that first touchdown in, it would have changed the whole game."

The remainder of the half, the two teams battled on pretty much even terms, but it was apparent that the Falcons' defense was using a containment policy against George, who finished with 70 yards on 17 carries.

George was able to get the short gains, and occasionally get one into the teens, but was never able to get the 40-, 50-, 60-yard knockout punch that usually deflates the opposing team. Foothill's agile linebackers and defensive backs were able to get a piece of him each time he was ready to break one.

Smith returns

Smith was a threat no one was expecting. Anxious to protect his torn rotator cuff, St. Mary's posi-



ST. MARY'S TRESTIN GEORGE (2) tries to break free from Foothill's Matt Andrade in the North Coast Section 2A championship football game Saturday at Dublin High.

tioned him at flanker and had Michael Smith throw to him. Smith caught six passes for 56 yards and only ran the ball a couple of times.

After a scoreless third quarter, Michael Smith made his only mistake of the night, throwing a pass that was picked off by Andrade and returned to the St. Mary's 15. Five plays later, Ian Anderson plunged a yard for the score, making it 20-0

with 11:30 left in the game.

The Panthers finally roused themselves and, with the help of two personal foul calls against Foothill, went 89 yards in 10 plays to score their only touchdown with 8:30 left in the game.

Key plays were a 24-yard pass from Smith to George and a 34-yarder from Michael Smith to Eddie Smith that put the ball on the Falcons' 11. James Sanders wouldn't be

denied, clawing his way 11 yards for the score. Eddie Smith ran in the two-point conversion.

St. Mary's tried an onside kick, but Foothill recovered on the Panthers' 48. The Falcons proceeded to run the table and the clock as Anderson scored on a 2-yard run with 1:20 left.

The Panthers' season was over for good.

Berkeley girls put a stunner, tie SR

Yellowjackets, winless last season, battle NCS runner-up to a draw

Staff report

The Berkeley High School girls soccer team, which went 0-12-2 in the East Bay Athletic League in 1998-99, shocked San Ramon Valley with a 0-0 tie Tuesday in this season's league opener at Berkeley.

San Ramon Valley went 18-3-3 last year and lost the North Coast Section championship match 2-1 in overtime to Carondelet. Berkeley entered Tuesday's game with an 0-3-1 nonleague record. San Ramon Valley fell to 3-0-2 overall.

"I think the amount of pressure we applied to San Ramon was the

key, and also our defense was really well, which was a change from previous years," coach Suzanne said.

Yellowjackets' goalkeeper Berget saved three goals. Prayers were said for the team. Pfister (former) and Pfister (former) were in the midfield.

"Our defense was everywhere," Pfister said. "We managed to get them into some areas, but we gave them a lot of time to

Gauchos

FROM PAGE C1

"They came back and won it in regular time," said El Cerrito coach Robert Sackey. "Valerie Decker was not done yet. She was big and strong. She played up front with her sister and they beat us."

It wasn't the first time that kind of thing had happened to El Cerrito last year. The Lady Gauchos beat Salesian High in the preseason, then lost to the Chieftains in the regular season matchup.

El Cerrito's best chance of making it to North Coast would be to get the No. 3 seed or better in the league playoffs by finishing second or third during the regular season. Avoiding Piedmont before the league finals would be the best and most favorable route.

El Cerrito should have little problem reaching the league playoffs. But getting a top-three seed would mean winning the right games. There are hopes and dreams of beating Piedmont, and El Cerrito tied Alameda last year, but more importantly the Lady Gauchos need to beat the teams that are at — or just below — their level. That means taking out Salesian, De Anza, Albany and Encinal.

To do that El Cerrito must play as a well-oiled unit. There are not enough top-level club players, such as Eames, to take the team were it wanted to go without everyone being involved.

Sackey said he has six or seven players who have played together and have a good chemistry with one another. It's the others who will have to blend in to make this team a challenger.

"I have players who have played together two or three years," said Sackey. "They have good chemistry. For the rest it's going to take a while. I get them for a week and we have to play right away. As a team you can't jell until the end of the season."

El Cerrito did have a successful preseason and some of those games

were previews of what to expect in league. The Lady Gauchos beat St. Mary's 5-0 on Nov. 10.

A 4-1 win over Piedmont brought the team to 3-0. El Cerrito played at home and got its fourth win at Mt. Diablo 7-0 in the preseason. A 2-1 win over Albany resulted in a 6-1 loss to St. Christian. "We did an amazing job," said Sackey. "We had players because it was a weekend," said Sackey. "We also not used to playing in one day."

The Lady Gauchos returned next day by beating Salesian 1-0. Cerrito was scheduled to play Alameda on Wednesday in the opener, but Sackey was sure that game lightly. He said the team were without three of their best players and they were one of the best in the league.

The only game from the 1 match against Berkeley, the Yellowjackets controlled most of the game, but the Lady Gauchos won 5-2. Kate Erickson struck first on a corner. Sweeper Kate Erickson struck first on a corner. Sweeper Kate Erickson struck first on a corner.

Then came the preseason against Salesian, the team El Cerrito the past few years. Lady Gauchos won 5-2. Kate Erickson struck first on a corner. Sweeper Kate Erickson struck first on a corner.

Sackey is focused on Alameda, Albany and teams standing in the Coast entry. "For the Coast we have to beat them," he said.

El Cerrito entered the schedule after losing to 1 in the final nonleague game. Dec. 2, the day after the game. The team played in 16 days as a crash course the season started.

Jackets

FROM PAGE C1

Powerful arsenal

One thing that Berkeley has is a lot of weapons, if one misfires, another can step up.

McDaniels got his team off to an early lead against El Cerrito and then when he cooled off, Nichols got hot and then Doubledy and then Nichols. Seniors Ronald Curtis and Jason Holman also contributed with some

great overall play.

Make no mistake about it — if Berkeley is to go anywhere this season, it will be the seniors who take them there.

Besides the aforementioned Curtis, Doubledy, McDaniels and Nichols, senior Dionte Butler will also make some important contributions. And Berkeley just might have the best "money" player in the entire Bay Area — the aptly named Zillion Cash — who will also help.

Berkeley should have another championship season, and the EBAL will be glad to see the last of the Jackets.

Boys

FROM PAGE C1

lowjackets have other offensive-minded players. Austin Nichols scored 15 of his 19 points in the final three quarters and David Doubledy scored 14 of his 18 points in the final two.

El Cerrito simply couldn't match the Yellowjackets' firepower. Senior guard Hill led El Cerrito with 18 points and Franco Harris finished with 14 points.

"I told them after the game that it is going to take time to learn a new system," said Daniels, who had come over from Castro Valley. "It is going

to take time and it is still very early. We try to use our defense to spark our offense. We opened the game up too passively."

"It wasn't so much that they were intimidated (against Berkeley) but that it is early and they are still learning. This was a good game for us to play because it shows what we need to work on and what areas we are deficient in."

El Cerrito returned to its winning ways last Friday when the Gauchos won 64-53 at Piner to improve to 3-1. Hill led with 22 points and Harris followed with 21. El Cerrito took command in the second quarter, outscoring Piner 19-11 to take a 34-23 lead at the half. Junior forward Ricky Hale added 10 points.

Jones

FROM PAGE C1

sit out a week. Junior Veronica Gomez is now playing there.

Katie Eames has become a monster up front, scoring 21 goals in nine games. Her sister Kirsten Eames is the other forward and has also been on a scoring and assist tear.

That's good news because Sackey moved sophomore Jenna Brace to goalie. Brace was the team's second leading goal scorer last year. "She is doing a great job in the goal," said Sackey. "We have a trainer, Tim Webb, working with the goalies. He played at the college level."

Senior Ann Chaymany is the attacking midfielder in a 3-5-2 set that has five girls in the middle. Chaymany is one of the smallest players on the field, but she is very quick.

Kate Erickson is a senior sweeper in her fourth year on the team. Her experience will be an asset in the back, but she also had a corner kick that gave El Cerrito a 1-1 tie against Berkeley.

Jenny McKnight is another senior playing the left back. "They understand what I expect of them," said Sackey of his seniors. Junior Carrie Faulkner, the twin sister of Natalie, plays a marking fullback on the right, while junior Kimberly Yamato and senior Leah Ingram play the defending halfback spots.

Three players moved up from junior varsity. Junior Sean Perry is a defensive midfielder. Alejandra Perez is a midfielder who was out last year because of surgery. Melissa Mello is a forward and midfielder.

Junior Catherine Peterson is a defender and forward. Then there is the future of the team in freshmen Elizabeth Morrison and Lindsay Spolarich, who have already made the move from junior varsity to varsity this season.

The team played nine games in 16 days and took off five days from competition to get ready for the league opener. "Now they have learned from all that," said Sackey of the preseason. "We have watched the tapes and done a little running and thinking. Now we will perform."

After the first five (league) games we want to be 5-0 before the bye."

Those first five Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League games began Wednesday against Encinal.

The Lady Gauchos play Holy Names today, then Kennedy next Wednesday (Dec. 15) and St. Joseph Notre Dame the following Friday (Dec. 17) before a three-week break.

The fifth league game, and first back from the break, is against league rival Salesian on Jan. 5. El Cerrito has a bye before facing defending league

Sportswriting

The Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame is accepting entries for the Art Rosenbaum Sportswriting Scholarship. Juniors and seniors in Bay Area high schools can submit their sports-oriented articles that appeared in their school papers during

the 1999-2000 sports seasons.

High schools can submit up to two entries each, with a limit of one article per student. A panel of professional journalists will serve as judges. First place is \$2,000. Awards will be presented at the end of the spring semester.

The annual awards were estab-

lished in 1992 by Lou Spadia, president of the Hall of Fame, to honor columnist Art Rosenbaum. He was a sportswriter for the San Francisco Chronicle for about 60 years.

Entries should be sent by April 15 to The Rosenbaum Scholarships, BASHOF, 465 California St., San Francisco 94104. For more informa-

tion, call 1-415-352-8807.

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Triple Play is also the sponsor of Hills Newspapers' Athlete of the Month award, which recognizes student-athletes for their athletic, as well as their scholastic achievement. Be sure to check out Hills' Athletes of the Month in your local sports section. Coaches can nominate your Athlete of the Month by faxing your nomination to Hills Newspapers' sports department at 339-4066.

Arts

Light a fire under your Winter Solstice

Bay Area events celebrate celestial season in December

By Vera H-C Chan

Pale and distant, the sun weakens little by little until one day its shriveled light gives way to the longest night of the year.

Thus begins the Winter Solstice, signaling the passing of the seasons. Astronomers cite the solstice (which means "sun stands still") as either of the two points in the ecliptic, when the sun is farthest from the celestial equator. In the northern hemisphere, the orb sinks to its lowest point in the northern sky around Dec. 21.

Ancients saw it as a fearful time in which fires had to be lit to ward off the dark chill and summon back the sun. Yet it was also an occasion for unrestrained merrymaking to celebrate the sun god's rebirth.

The Romans called it Dies Natalis Invicti Solis, the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun, an event enfolded in its Saturnalia feast that honored Saturn, the god of agriculture.

Scandinavians burned the yule log in tribute to Frey, the god of fertility, prosperity and peace. Iranian families lit fires throughout the night to help the sun and goodness combat the night and the evil darkness.

Modern-day vestiges of these rituals remain. Christmas customs, it has been argued, retain the celebratory colors (white, gold, green and red), the evergreen tree, and even the mistletoe and holly, from pagan ceremonies past.

This year, Winter Solstice falls on Dec. 21. In a happenstance of astronomical proportions, the moon will



THE 14TH annual "Christmas Revels" at the Oakland Scottish Rite Theatre celebrates Scandinavian traditions that will entertain children and adults.

Events

1999 "Christmas Revels," 8 p.m., Dec. 10, 17 and 18, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 11, 12 and 19, 3 p.m. Dec. 18, Scottish Rite Theatre, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, 510-452-9334 or box office 510-893-9853, www.home.earthlink.net/~calrevels. The 14th annual celebration focuses

on Scandinavian traditions. Stories like "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" will entertain children and adults, as will tales from the Finnish national epic "Kalevala." Norwegian dancers Karin Brennesvik and Tom Lovli and the Karelian Folk Ensemble, from a Finnish-speaking province in Russia,

See SEASON, Page C4

HOT SHEET!

■ Utah Phillips, an Ohio native who spins folklore and folk tunes, will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11, at Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. Tickets \$15.50 and \$16.50. Call 510-548-1761.

■ Oakland Museum of California will present "Art a la Carte: The Tools of Modern Artists," a docent-led tour at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 5. Free with museum admission.

EVENTS



GERMAN-BORN baritone Thomas Quasthoff will make his Bay Area recital debut through Cal Performances in Berkeley Sunday, March 12. Tickets: \$32. Call 510-642-9988

Seductive 'Affair' ends meekly

Despite its talented cast, the movie just doesn't grab the emotions

By Karen Hershenson

For a movie to be engaging, especially one focused on the lives of two people, we've got to care about them. There's got to be that crucial connection between characters and audience.

But there's not much endearing about novelist Maurice Bendrix (Ralph Fiennes) and adulterous wife Sarah Miles (Julianne Moore), the World War II-era star-crossed lovers in "The End of the Affair." He's arrogant, she's wimpy. He's insanely jealous, she's overly dramatic.

Steamy at first (and graphically depicted on screen), their liaison dissolves into quibbles over who loves the other more, and whether she, the wife of an insipid bureaucrat (Stephen Rea), is in it for the long haul. There's a recurring line about how "love never ends," which begins

See AFFAIR, Page C4



RALPH FIENNES and Julianne Moore share a poignant moment in "The End of the Affair."



LOCAL ARTIST Itsuko Zenitani crafted this porcelain bowl, which is part of the Potters' Studio Holiday Sale in Berkeley.

Berkeley Potters' Studio hosts holiday sale through Dec. 12

The Potters' Studio Holiday Sale, featuring whimsical teapots, raku masks and other eccentric crafts, continues in Berkeley.

The event, which continues Saturday, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Berkeley studio, features ceramics, pottery and sculptures from more than 20 local artists.

Weekend hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The 27-year-old Potters' Studio, which is located at 637 Cedar St., is a community-oriented center for both emerging and ceramic artists.

Call 510-528-3286.

The Second annual Zoolights at The Oakland Zoo — through Jan. 2: ZooLights features 100 glowing creations built specially for the Oakland Zoo. From a huge neon volcano erupting with light to colorful dinosaurs, lions and tigers and brightly colored birds, the various scenes may be viewed from the ZooLights Trail or from the new Holiday Train. In addition there is a children's carnival area and the Holiday Village, at the Children's Zoo which has been transformed with gingerbread men, candy canes, toy soldiers, gumdrop trees and many other goodies all ablaze with holiday colors. Proceeds from ZooLights benefit youth education and animal preservation at the Oakland Zoo.

Tickets: \$5 general, \$3 children age 2-14. Free children under age 2. One train ride ticket with each ticket. Daily, 5:30-9 p.m. weather permitting. Located at Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road, exit off Interstate 580, Oakland. Call 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

Bay Area Historic House Museums Christmas Activities runs through Jan. 2.

THE CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE — runs through Dec. 29. The stately, 1876 Italianate-style home is the last Victorian house on Lake Merritt's shore. Its five period rooms will be decorated for Christmas, with the highlight being its 12-foot Christmas tree festooned with garlands, handmade cornucopias, antique ornaments, baskets of nuts and American flags. Located at 14th Street and Lakeside Drive, Oakland. Hours: Wednesday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$4 general, \$2 seniors, \$1 juniors age 12-18. Free children under age 12. Call 510-444-1876.

THE COHEN BRAY HOUSE CHRISTMAS TEA AND TOUR — Jan. 2, 1-4 p.m. Elaborate for A.A. Cohen in 1884, the elaborate farmhouse contains original family furnishings and will be decorated for the holidays with Christmas trees, garlands and ornaments including a 12-foot tree. Tea sittings are on the hour 1-4 p.m. Reservations required. Located at Victorian Preservation Center of Oakland, 1440 29th St., Oakland. Tickets: \$20 general, \$15 seniors and youths. Call 510-843-2906.

THE PARDEE HOUSE — runs through Dec. 31. The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to California Gov. Pardee and three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn and will be decorated with 1890s holiday decorations. Located at 672 11th St., Oakland. Friday and Saturday, noon; Closed Dec. 25. \$5 general; free children.

See EVENTS, Page C4

BILL MANN

Media Notes

The new KDFC ... rocks!

Discordant sounds: Classical music is important to many hills readers. It certainly is the case here, where it is the case of choice and has been for many years. I've covered San Francisco classical station KDFC (102.1 FM) for 16 years, longer than anyone else, and I considered its founder, Ed Davis, a personal friend. Davis would take me to the San Francisco Symphony and tell me wonderful stories of his early days at NBC in New York. Ed compared his classy radio station to a "museum, open free to the public" and himself to its curator. Everything on Davis's KDFC was pre-taped, and there were no announcers. He liked to joke that he chose the station's call letters, KDFC, because they stood for "famous fine concerts." But, as it was, KDFC did have a museum-like feel.

Davis wasn't in radio strictly for the money, although he made a good living from KDFC. Mainly, he loved the music. Davis would not market the station; that was beneath KDFC. He never ran a single newspaper ad, never bought a bus or newspaper ad, never did market research. I was the only newspaper who even wrote about the profile station or its owner. And until he got to know me, Davis was reluctant to even give interviews. But we became close. One time, Davis, in the spirit of generosity, asked me to lunch to give me publisher, the late Robert Maynard, give him a call. He wanted to offer the Trib KDFC's biggest sideband frequencies for transmitting the paper electronically. Maynard and Davis spoke several times.

But Ed Davis's beloved radio station, though it did well, could probably not exist in today's brutally competitive radio world even if he were still alive (Ed died in 1998 after a long battle with cancer). His favorite piece of music, Beethoven's Fifth, by prearrangement, was played on KDFC's air to announce his death to friends.

When I heard it, I was in the car. I cried over and nearly wept).

KDFC has changed under its new ownership. Bonneville Broadcasting bought the station four years ago, saving the classical format in San Francisco. Now, some classical snobs have conveniently forgotten that — and are taking cheap shots at Bonneville, which saved the struggling station.

But the good news is that KDFC in the past two weeks, just got some of its highest ratings ever. The first TV ads it ever ran (I hated those ads, but they obviously worked). And frankly, as much as I loved Ed Davis and his station, I like the new one just as much, maybe more.

It's more melodic; less discordant music is played. It is not snark. A piece in the San Francisco Examiner the other day by its classical music critic bordered on a cheap shot and underlined the musical snobbery facing KDFC. The snobber critic does not cover radio — no S.F. or Oakland daily critic — and he does not understand anything about today's radio business. Marty Snapp's piece here a few weeks back was much kinder and fairer in its criticisms of KDFC. "We are not in the classical music business," KDFC's general manager Valerie Howard told me last week. "We are in the radio business. We are not a museum."

"We like to visit Planet Art, we don't want to live on it," Bill Davis's affable programmer Bill Davis added sarcastically. He was upset about The Music Critic's scolding article, and understandably so.

It turns out KDFC is not alone. We've been making calls for a story magazine about the resurgence in classical music radio. And it turns out the snobs have also descended on the stations around the country as the stations change their formats and to better match listeners' tastes. Bill Campbell, who runs the successful classical station in Boston, told me he's even received death threats from what he calls "the hammyphers." Campbell, of KDFC-FM says, "Snobism is elitism, and elitism is just another form of bigotry."

Further proof that The Music Critic doesn't know the first thing about the radio business: He was

See MANN, Page C4

Calendar

...to the Community Calendar
...received Thursdays one week
...to publication. Listings are on a
...available basis.

Classes

Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., offers winter, container vegetable classes on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 3 to 6 p.m. Environmental educator Val Peters demonstrates ways to select and organically prepare growing areas, choose containers, or control pests, and maintain plants nutritionally. Pre-registration is required. Call 548-2220 for more information and to sign up.

van der Zanden Studio, 1025 Union St., No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Thursdays, by appointment. Scribble Time is a class taught by Anne Levine, who has helped people to understand themselves better and to find their focus. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

CapWatch class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2222 Blake Street near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 548-0425 for additional information.

Berkeley Community Media (BCM), Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. For more information call 848-1888 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

Disaster Preparedness Class offered by Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services is scheduled as follows: Dec. 11 9-12 Disaster First Aid. All classes are held at the 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to anyone, 18 or older, who live or work in Berkeley. Call Mary Enrich at 844-6736, ext. 223.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the resources available to the public including a variety of workshops held Tuesdays, at 1:30 p.m. For additional information call 848-6370.

mation call 848-6370

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dance classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalanjal Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug, 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley, Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes

Children

Kids and their adult companions can explore the University of California Botanical Garden with Docent Lois Paul the last Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. You will visit a section of the Garden that represents a different continent or foreign country, find out what's special about the plants that grow there, and then draw what you see. Call 643-2755 to reserve your space.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

tional information

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10

Community

The Berkeley Gray Panthers presents

its Holiday Party Potluck Luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Redwood Gardens Community Room, 2951 Derby St. The public is invited to celebrate with music, dancing, sing-a-long. Bring a guest and a dish. Call the office for menu choices and to volunteer for party assignments. Call 548-9696

The Richmond-El Cerrito Branch of the American Association of University Women will be holding its annual holiday tea and cookie exchange on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Guests are welcome to attend. Calaveras will provide musical entertainment. The group recently was awarded a national song-writing award at The Napa Folk Festival

Attendees are encouraged to bring toiletries, toys and money to be donated to the Richmond Center for Battered Women and Children. The event will be held at a member's home. Details may be secured by calling 526-1127.

The North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst/MLK Jr. Way, presents its Holiday Party with the Berkeley Saxophone Quartet on Friday, Dec. 17, 1:15 p.m. The public is invited. Call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107 for additional information.

Holiday shoppers and bargain hunters are invited to the annual Christmas Shopping Spree at the Turnabout Shop, 10052 San Pablo Ave., in El Cerrito. The sale continues through Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Mann Avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

See CALENDAR, Page C6

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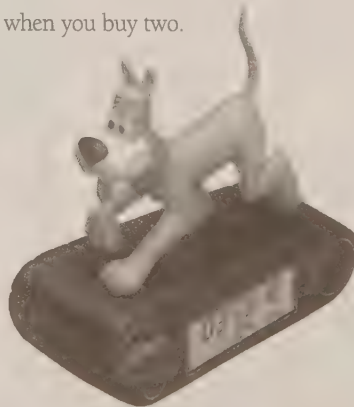
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Calendar

FROM PAGE C5

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies" volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic, 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project: The Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley, serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

"Trees and Rhizoms," a MFA graduate exhibition, paintings by Holly Cratty, opens on Dec. 10 and continues through 17, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at John F. Kennedy University Arts Annex, 2955 San Pablo Ave., second floor. A reception takes place on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 649-0499 for additional information.

The Graduate Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road, presents two art exhibits: "Collaborations: A Spiritual Intercourse," continuing through Dec. 22. The exhibit displays works by Ira and Corliss Lesser, local artists who collaboratively explored issues of gender, spirituality and the social-political world in their art over a thirty-year span. The second exhibit, "Resilient Psyche: Representations of Women in German Expressionist Prints," is a selection of fifteen works on paper from the collection of David and Eva Bradford. This exhibit continues through Dec. 20. The German Expressionist prints were made between 1903 and 1924. Call 649-2541 for additional information.

Traditional Native American Jewelry Show takes place on Friday, Dec. 17 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Gathering Tribes, 1573 Solano Ave. Art Quintana, a dealer of Native American jewelry for over 30 years will show his extensive collection of older Zuni, Navajo and Hopi jewelry. Call 528-9038 for additional information.

The Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios continues on weekends throughout December Saturdays and Sundays, 11-5 p.m., 11 and 12, 18 and 19. A free map is available listing all participants. One hundred professional artists and craftspeople at studio buildings throughout Berkeley participate in this annual event, showing functional and decorative ceramics, ornaments, menorahs, lamps, blown glass, sculpture, furniture, work from recycled materials, insect displays, sundials, astro-labes, hand decorated eggs, floorcloths, textiles, art to wear clothing, hats, many styles of jewelry, paintings, original prints, artists' books, and other works on paper. All work is hand-crafted, and many pieces are one-of-a-kind. This self-guided free tour presents an opportunity to buy directly from the artists, and to see working craft studios. The Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios Map is available by mail. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Berkeley Artisans Map, 1250 Addison St. #214, Berkeley, CA 94702. Pick up a map at the same address during the event. Or check the web site at <http://berkeleyartisans.com>.

The Albany Arts Committee exhibits "Into the Light Paintings by Kenet" beginning Dec. 12 and continuing through Feb. 24, at the Albany Community Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave. The opening reception takes place Sunday, Dec. 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. Call 524-9283 for additional information.

Lewis Suzuki, nationally known artist, continues his open house through Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19. Suzuki is well-known for his use of vibrant colors and the range and depth of his subject matter. The hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The studio is located at 2240 Grant St., corner of Bancroft Way and Grant. Call 849-1427 for additional information.

The UC-Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives, 2625 Durant Ave., presents the third Matrix exhibition. "Teresta Fernandez/Matrix 182 supernova" continues through Jan. 30. Fernandez is a New York-based artist who creates sculptural installations that manipulate the audience's sense of physical space in relation to architectural form. Call 642-0808 for additional information.

"Snowmen In Summer" a solo exhibition by Carrie Lederer takes place at the John F. Kennedy Arts Annex, 2955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, Gallery hours: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information call 649-0499.

Lawrence Hall of Science continues its new exhibit "The Atoms Family" through January 9. The exhibit explores the complex world of energy and matter. The daily live demonstrations include hands-on activities. The museum is open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for children seniors and students; \$2 for children 3-6. LHS is located above UC Berkeley campus on Centennial Drive. For information, call 642-5132 or check www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

The Berkeley Potters Guild holds its 28th annual winter holiday sale during the entire week of Dec. 11-23. Nineteen Guild members will display current works throughout their complex of open studios. The Guild is located at 731 Jones St. at 4th St., just off the Gilman St. exit of I-80. Call 524-7031 or visit the web site at Berkeley-Potters.com.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m., except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Literary Events

The Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., announces the winners of its 13th annual international Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award for Poems on the Jewish Experience. There will be a public reading of winning entries on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call 549-6950 for additional information.

"Street Integration", a free evening of poetry and music, takes place on Sunday, Dec. 12 at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. The evening features a night of slammin', mind-blowin' poetry, street music, international dancing, original arts and crafts, and much more. Sponsored by Disability Advocates of Minorities Organization (DAMO). Donations are welcome. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

GAIA Bookstore and Community Center, 1400 Shattuck Ave., presents poet Monza Nafi, author of "Healing the Womanheart" and "Exultation," on Saturday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m. Call 548-4172 for additional information.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Meetings

Soroptimist International of El Cerrito meet at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m. for its annual Christmas Party. For reservations call Mary Gianotti 235-0706.

The City Commons Club meets in the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. every Friday. Social hour begins at 11:15 a.m. in the Venetian Room. Luncheon served at 11:45 to 12:15 p.m. \$10.75 or \$12.25. Speaker starts promptly at 12:30 p.m. Admission \$1 with coffee. Student admission free. Call 848-3533 for speaker information or to make reservations if you are bringing more than one guest.

Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmasters Meeting: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffey Auditorium, Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegas. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegas Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

Spirituality and Healing Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those

with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS: 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters: meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

Toastmasters: noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 883-6708.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffey Auditorium on Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Music

MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda, presents Tanya Tomkins, 18th century cello, and Aglika Angelova, fortepiano, performing duo sonatas by Beethoven and Wolff on Sunday, Dec. 12, 5 p.m. Following the presentation plan to remain for a reception and an opportunity to explore MusicSources and its historic instruments. Tickets: \$18 general, \$15 members, seniors and students. For reservations, call 528-1685.

Organist, Eileen Coggin, performs Works of Praetorius, Barber, Dupre, on Sunday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m. at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way. Donation. Call 845-0888 for additional information.

The Distaff Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required, just a love of singing. Classical, pop, sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals Tuesdays nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

The Prometheus Symphony Orchestra presents its holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m. at Saint Ambrose Church, 1145 Gilman St., Berkeley. The performance includes Igor Stravinsky's ballet, the "Firebird Suite," Howard Hanson's, Symphony No. 2 "Romantic," and Giuseppe Verdi's, La Forza del Destino. Admission is free; donations are accepted. Call 527-1519 for additional information.

The New Century Chamber Orchestra opens its 1999-2000 season Thursday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way. New music director, Krista Bennion Feeney.

See CALENDAR, Page C8

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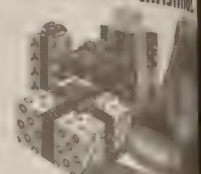
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BUSD TIDINGS

BY ANA LUISA QUINONEZ

Please submit BUSD information or photographs to the Berkeley Voice by 5 p.m. for publication in the following week's newspaper. Phone (510) 339-4053, fax (510) 339-4066, or preferably, e-mail: quinonez@cetimes.com

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KING MIDDLE SCHOOL

644-6280

GARDEN TEACHER'S ASSISTANT POSITION AVAILABLE

Wanted: Mature, committed individual with an understanding of teenagers and the ability to perform physical gardening work for the year January through July 2000. Organic gardening experience and/or teaching experience preferred but not necessary, a sense of humor is also a plus. Americorps Member preferred to provide tutoring, mentoring and health education services to youth at the Edible Schoolyard. The Edible Schoolyard is an acclaimed organic gardening and learning program which is a national model. The classroom and garden teachers working with middle school students; the Americorps member will be responsible for working with a small group of students in hands-on, experiential learning and lessons in the garden which are linked to the core curriculum. This member will do full-time service for service term and then receive a \$2,362 education award, in addition to \$5.75 per hour, major medical health coverage and child care assistance if eligible. 32 hours per week. Call **Ene Osteras-Constable** at 510-558-1135 for more information.

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL

644-6121

GETS INTO THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Your help is needed in collecting toys to give to the needy children at the Central American Refugee Center. Please come drop off new and used toys to B142, Mr. Richards' class. Make a difference this holiday. Deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 17th.

CRAGMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

644-8811

SCHOOL NEWS

The PTA Thanksgiving Food Drive netted over forty turkeys and hundreds of food items to Cragmont families who may not have been able to provide a Thanksgiving meal. Thanks to **Lesley Turner** for organizing this effort.

The first school assembly at the new school was held last month. *The San Francisco Taiko Dojo* sent **David** and **Heldi**. Students were amazed by the drum performance and loved the audience participation.

Many thanks to Cragmont parents **Ruth Paris**, **Amy Oppenheimer**, **Bob Wester** and **Richard Cobeen** for helping answer questions during school visitation this fall for Kindergarten Outreach.

BERKELEY ARTS MAGNET ELEMENTARY

644-6225

SCHOOL NEWS

The after school classes will perform on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Thanks to **Stephanie Pardee** for coordinating our fabulous afterschool classes.

Over \$1000 in orders for the 1999-2000 shirts, sweatshirts, zip-up hooded jackets, and book bags have been turned in.

Lesley's shirts and tote bags, aprons will be added to the next order. Thanks to **Marilyn Siegel** for working on this project this year.

The BAM Disaster Preparedness Committee met and developed a list of important projects to be completed.

Please join BAM parents and teachers in our work day this Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 am to noon and help make our classrooms a safer place in the event of an earthquake. Thanks to **David Wee** for coordinating this project.

BAM's Harry Potter Book Circle will meet one more time this year, on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7 pm in the Library. Past meetings have involved 20 or more kids and their parents reading their favorite passages, writing letters to the editor about banning books, and more. Coming up next: a quidditch match. Thanks to **Donna Sharp** and **dad Jay** for starting the book circle.

There has been nothing but good news coming from the parents and teachers of the children who attend the Afterschool Homework Club. Thanks to **Tawanna Little** for getting the club started.

BUSD ADMINISTRATION

644-6504

KINDERGARTEN FAIR

The Kindergarten Fair is an annual event held for families with entering kindergarten and new students to BUSD. The Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Malcolm X Arts and Academics Magnet School, 231 Prince Street. It's a great opportunity to learn about district curricula and programs, talk with representatives from all 12 elementary schools, get a head start on the enrollment process and meet child-care providers. For more info call 644-6504.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The BUSD Board of Education and Superintendent of schools are discussing several options to try to maximize current resources available to complete a few of the district's largest and most complicated construction projects scheduled for the next few years. Simply stated: (1) If we are going to do construction work at King, and Adult School, we have to relocate students attending those schools. (2) We are planning to do upgrades to the Franklin building and provide for playing fields at East Campus. When work at these two locations begins, we will have to make accommodations to relocate or phase in the work at these sites.

To assist district staff, parents and community with this programming and logistics process, the Board has contracted with WLC Architects. WLC is a large architectural firm that specializes in the planning of school projects. They have experience with our schools; having partnered with VBN Architects on a number of other construction projects (specifically, the G and H Buildings at Berkeley High, Malcolm X, Willard, and the New Alternative Program).

The Board and the Superintendent invite comment from school staff, parents and the community affected by these projects. If you have any questions, please call the district's Public Information Office: 510-644-6320. Meetings will be held on the following dates: Dec. 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Franklin School Auditorium, 1150 Virginia; Dec. 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m. King Middle School Library, 1781 Rose; Dec. 13, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Adult School Auditorium, 1222 University; Dec. 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m. East Campus Auditorium, 1950 Carleton.

BERKELEY ADULT SCHOOL

644-6784

PARENTING TEENS CLASSES

Berkeley Adult School is offering six Thursday night sessions to parents of teens in Berkeley to talk about specific problem areas that families deal with: drug and alcohol abuse, communication, sex, depression, violence, and anger management. Parents can choose to come to any or all sessions. There is no fee.

The sessions are on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Berkeley Adult School, 1222 University Avenue, Room 103. These will be informal discussion groups by facilitator **Bonnie Baldwin** (Lic. #MFC 35751). There will be hot beverages and refreshments served. For more information, call (925) 472-9782 or e-mail teelect@jeng.com.

MEETINGS

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL, 2246 Milvia St., 644-4500

- Concert Chorus, Tuesday, Dec. 14, St. John's 7:30 pm.
 - African Dance, Tuesday, Dec. 16, Community Theater, 7:30 pm.
 - Orchestra Concert, Wednesday, Dec. 15, Little Theater, 7:30 pm.

- Pep Band Performance, Sat., Dec. 11, 2-4 p.m. at Andronico's
 - Winter Play, Friday, Dec. 10, & Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Florence Schwimmer Little Theater, between MLK and Milvia streets. The BHS Performing Arts Department presents "The Visit", a drama in three acts by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, adapted by Maurice Valency. Tickets are \$5 at the door and refreshments will be sold at the intermission.

CRAGMONT, 830 Regal Road, 644-8811
 - Winter Fair Night, Dec. 15
 KING, 1781 Rose St., 644-6098

MALCOLM X, 1731 Prince St., 644-6313

- Family Heritage Potluck, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m. auditorium. Book fair, MX sweatshirt and t-shirt sales, performance by students.

MU R, 2955 Claremont Avenue, 644-6410
 - Quilting Bee, Thursday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for details.

THOUSAND OAKS, 840 Colusa Avenue, 644-6368
 - Annual Winterfest, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7-8:15 p.m. Arts, crafts, food & fun.

WILLARD, 2425 Stuart St., 644-6229
 - "Bye-Bye Birdie" performed by Willard students on Thursday & Friday, Dec. 9 and 10, 7 p.m.

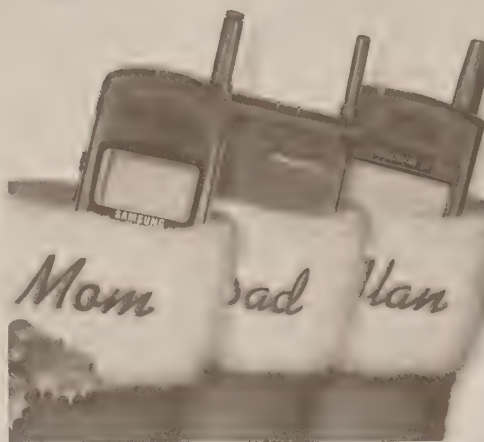
LONGFELLOW, 1500 Derby St., 644-6360
 - Winter Concert by the Jazz Band Chorus Steel Drum Band Concert Band Orchestra, Monday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Gym

- PTA Wednesday Dec. 15th, 6:30 p.m., library. Topic: Healthy Start Grant.

LOOKING AHEAD - NO SCHOOL

Monday, Dec. 20 through Friday, Dec. 31 - Winter Recess (K-12)

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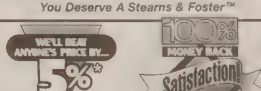


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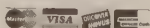
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Calendar

FROM PAGE C6

opens the season with a 20th century Retrospective, featuring composers Wallingford Riegger, Arnold Schoenberg and John Adams. The orchestra, now in its eighth year, rose to prominence under the leadership of Stuart Canin who announced his retirement at the end of last season. Tickets: \$30 and \$25 and can be purchased through City Box Office. Call 415 392-4400 for additional information.

Folk singers Sharon Burch and Jennifer Berezan perform on Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. The concert celebrates the release of Burch's new album, "Colors of My Heart," and Berezan's album, "Returning." Burch's music is a contemporary expression of Navajo ways and living. Her third album, "Touch the Sweet Earth," won an Indie award for North American Native Music. Berezan is a singer/songwriter/guitarist, whose "Returning," is a unique meditative album recorded in a 6,000 year old temple in Malta. Tickets: \$12 advance, \$14 at the door. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

The San Francisco Choral Artists, a 22-voice chamber choir, performs Friday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way. The group presents a wide range of American Christmas music. Tickets: \$17 general, \$14 seniors/students/disabled, \$12 groups of six or more. All concerts are wheelchair accessible. Call 415-979-5779 for additional information.

Ducksan Distones, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

The Jazzschool presents Sunday afternoon concerts at 4:30 p.m. at the Jazzschool LaNote Restaurant, 2375/77 Shattuck Ave. The concerts feature appearances by nationally-renowned artists and top jazz musicians living in the Bay Area. The talented faculty will be featured including Mike Zilber, Bill Douglass, Jenna Mammima, and Christy Dana. Tickets for Sunday concerts are \$12 general, \$10 students/seniors, \$6 Jazzschool students and children up to 12 years of age. Advance reservations are recommended. Call 845-5373 for additional information.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointments and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of up-

See EVENTS, Page C9

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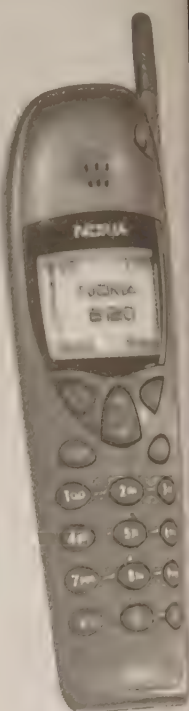
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Calendar

FROM PAGE C8

Support classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

Grief Counseling Project offers support to those who are overwhelmed with grief and grief associated with the death of a loved one. Many people suffer in silence. The holiday season is especially hard. No one is turned away. Call 925-820-1021.

City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver meals once a week to homebound seniors. Call 644-8590.

North Berkeley Senior Center is seeking volunteers to work in its kitchen, coffee bar and dining area. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., one day a week. Call 644-8107.

Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education group presents Dorothea, a state certified massage and movement therapist, who teaches self-massage methods. This method is sensitive and adaptable to people who are experiencing a great deal of discomfort, and to those who are no longer experiencing major pain. Bring a small pillow, wear loose, comfortable clothing. For directions or more information, call 644-8107.

Stroke Support Group for stroke survivors, their families and friends. No advance reservations required. Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 4 p.m.-5 p.m., at the Maffei Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way.

Workshop "Secrets of the Hidden Job Market" will be the topic of a workshop at the Learning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way, on Thursday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Develop targeting and networking skills. This workshop is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Learning Point Career Center, a program of the WYCA. For more information, call 646-6370.

WYCA offers free orientations of its Learning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different programs the center offers, including the great variety of workshops. The orientations are held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. The center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. For more information call 646-6370.

What is Meditation? is a peaceful practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 822 Shattuck Ave. Pragita Dove is the facilitator. Call 64-0861 for additional information.

Movements Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 646-6229 for Berkeley location.

Theater, Dance & Film

Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way at Bowditch, presents "A Distant Balance: The Comedy of Jiri Menzel" on Dec. 11, and Dec. 12. Tickets: \$7 for one film, \$7.50 for double bills. Featured are films: "Capricious Summer," "Closely Watched Trains," "Larks on a String," "Capricious Summer," "Cutting It Short," "Snowdrop Festival," "My Sweet Little Village," "The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin." Call 642-1412 for dates, and times.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents "Metamorphoses," a play based on the myths of Ovid. Play runs through Jan. 16, 8 p.m., at Zellerbach Playhouse, UC-Berkeley campus, Dana Street and Bancroft Way. Call 845-4700 for schedule and ticket information.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents "Metamorphoses," a play based on the myths of Ovid. Play runs through Jan. 16, 8 p.m., at Zellerbach Playhouse, UC-Berkeley campus, Dana Street and Bancroft Way. Call 845-4700 for schedule and ticket information.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30-9:30 p.m., East Coast Swing from 7-8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

Volunteers

Breast Cancer Action, an advocacy and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week, are available. Call 415-243-9301 for additional information.

Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center needs off-site volunteers to help with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three-and-a-half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those who want to volunteer should call 466-5663 or 548-6933.

Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and Escort Volunteers. During the winter months volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

La Pena Cultural Center needs volunteers with technical sound skills. The commitment is two programs per month. Call Kahili 849-2568, ext. 11, for more information.

The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. Judges depend on volunteer reports to make life changing decisions. To receive an application and information call 268-7287. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed.

Berkeley artists open doors

Alison Antelman, 31, likes to search through piles of turquoise stones at her supplier in New Mexico to find some unusual pieces for her jewelry designs. She has also been known to walk a beach for hours to find worn pieces of glass, what she calls "beach glass," to incorporate into her metalwork.

"I like the idea of finding things others have tossed as garbage," she said. "I treat them as valuable gemstones."

Whatever she chooses—stones or soft-edged glass—she makes her work follow the stone's form so it becomes a unified piece, she said. She even crafts the gold and silver chains and clasps that go with her works.

Antelman is one of more than 100 artisans opening their doors this month to the public at 29 sites in Berkeley for a holiday show and sale. Free maps for a self-guided tour are available at Berkeley Artisans, 1250 Addison St., No. 214, Berkeley. The studios are open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday; and Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19.

"People love to come into our studios," said Susan Brooks, organizer.

See ARTISTS, Page C11



ALISON ANTELMAN works on her jewelry.

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The Harmony Trade Inc.
this business is conducted by a corporation.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County, California, by file stamp above.

Expres November 1994
Legal The State of California
Publish December 3 1994
24, 1995

November 1994
STEPHEN L. WEISS
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
FILE NO. 99-76104

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business known as
KACONTER is located at 20420 Camino Del Rio East, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108 is hereby registered by the following owners:

Kenneth Resents
25434 Camara Cir
Concord CA 94520

This business is conducted by an individual

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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
FILE NO. 99-76104

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business known as
THE ALYSSA COMPANY is located at 12951 San Gabriel Ave., In Concord, CA 94020 is hereby registered by my owner company.

The Alyssa Company
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by registered by the follow-
ing owner(s)

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State of Incorporation Califor-
nia

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by: a corporation
/s/ Kelvin Laughlin President

This statement was filed
with the County Clerk of Con-
tra Costa on date indicated
by file stamp above

Business commenced on
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Expires November 12, 2004

Legal The Journal #0188
Publish December 3, 10, 17,
24, 1999

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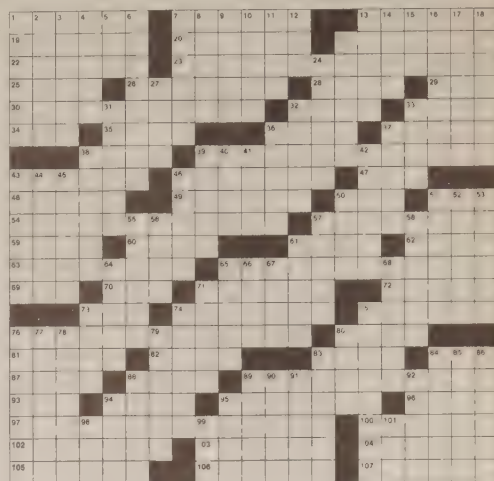
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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANAGRAMMATIC DISCLOSURES

By EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Purlon a sirlon?
7 Not for sure
13 Hangers around the house
19 Necessitate
20 — de Balzac
21 Something too easily broken
22 Overdo the diet
23 Director Martin Scorsese's anagrammatic claim
25 Where a pupil sits
26 Recess for a joint
28 Emmy-winning Daly
29 Rotten egg
30 Jockey Eddie Arcaro's anagrammatic motto
32 Hors d'oeuvre cheese
33 Cartoon skunk Le Pew
34 Masthead figs.
35 Queen's servants
36 King of comedy
37 Hole-making bug
38 Fine subjects
39 Ulysses S. Grant's anagrammatic hangovers
43 Protectors from splats
46 Cried
47 Poetic preposition
48 A point in Mexico
49 Song-and-dance shows
50 Spree
51 Sternward
54 Artist Piet Mondrian's anagrammatic epigram
57 Capitalist?
59 Congress-thwarting move
60 Author — Mae Brown
61 Jackknife, e.g.
62 Farm prefix
63 Toothless
65 Kevin Costner's anagrammatic lament about his videos
69 What Leary tripped on
70 Wheel track cheese
71 Sunshine in Québec
72 Babe Ruth, on the Yankees
73 Intent
74 Without rocks
75 Sneaker bottoms
76 Carmen
78 Miranda's anagrammatic ballroom tip
80 What an ostiary guards
81 Oxlike antelope
82 Footless critter
83 Stuff in a muffin
84 Slugger's stat
87 Greet with old-fashioned etiquette
88 Bath's county
89 Len Deighton's anagrammatic avowal on writing
93 Beatles' "Loser"
94 MacGraw's namesakes
95 Any spider
96 Glaciated
97 Poet Denise Levertov's anagrammatic urging
100 Tasselly hem
102 Blow up
103 Let
104 Melt down, as fat
105 "Sophie's Choice" author
106 Helmet plumes
107 Lots and lots
- DOWN**
- 1 Have a hearth
2 Virgin
3 Domestic sign
4 Urban transports
5 Ullmann of moviedom
6 Classic work of Euclid
7 Trilled calls
8 Plantain lily
9 Bit of clowning
10 Whence the word "troll"
11 Canadian prairie tribe
12 Aye-aye
13 Many a lecturer
14 Setting for "Don Pasquale"
15 Org. with a much-quoted journal
16 Lobster part
17 Coop flier
18 Rustic sow-and-sows?
21 Like a Nosy Parker
24 Maroon
27 Mudder fodder
31 Shade
32 B.B.'s bag
33 Prepare to be shot
36 Quaker in the woods
37 Carrier in a canal
38 Auteur's order
39 Bara the "vamp"
40 Gad about
41 "It's — move"
42 Get a rise out of?
43 Whine pathetically
44 Urban transports
45 Emulated Demosthenes
46 Composed
50 Rock's Bon —
51 Silky goat
52 Like fast marches
53 Tots' wheels, for short
55 Psychic shock
56 Oven —
57 School door sign
58 Brit's accented reply
61 Rational faith in God
64 Put to the proof
65 Without letup
66 "Pure —" (1994 jazz album)
67 Drive out of one's lane
68 Buff, so to speak
71 Grafting bud
73 Teen-y problem
74 Tariff
75 Alternately
76 Mocks
77 Foodstuff
78 How some country stars sing
79 Product of erosion
80 Trio abroad
83 Runs colorfully
84 Name in a Beach Boys title
85 In old show biz, he was no dummy
86 Forward line players, in soccer
88 Set straight
89 Singer Cara
90 Cupid's stock
91 Start
92 Like whose eyes, in a Ben Jonson verse?
94 Of planes and flying
95 Say it's so
98 Alternate: Abbr.
99 Mythical monster
101 Abbr. on a boombox



Artists

FROM PAGE C9

the annual event. "They get to see us, see our tools and our work spaces. Some are inspired to create or art themselves."

With a degree in mass communication, Antelman arrived in the area from New York in 1990. She has been studying metalworking since 1991 and has been selling her work for five years.

She is concerned that, in this society, the art of working with the hands is fading.

"At a time when so many things are machine-made, and made just for the sake of having a product to sell, these pieces I make are part of the art," she said.

Sometimes it's hard for her to work with her work, but when a customer tries on a piece, "it can become the person," she said.

"They come to life when a human puts them on."

Just the other day, she said, a

woman tried on an amber necklace, and it glowed.

"It happens all the time and it's amazing to me," Antelman said.

Now in its ninth year, the tour is an unusual way to shop, Brooks said, because there's so much of each artist's work to see. Her 1,200-square-foot studio, for example, is filled with her jewelry and paintings.

Artists on the tour include glass blowers, potters, painters, jewelers, printers and sculptors. Insect displays, ornaments, hand-decorated eggs, wearable art, hats, lamps and more are for sale. Prices range from \$2 to \$5,000, Brooks said.

"Everything is handcrafted, and a lot of it is one of a kind," she said. "Somebody's heart and soul went into everything on sale here. It's a unique opportunity to visit artists' studios, watch them at work and buy directly."

The tour is also a chance for the artists to listen to what the shoppers want and get feedback on their work.

"We love to meet people who are enthused about our work," Brooks said. "Once they meet us, they do come back, and it adds to our customer base."

There is also a spirit of community among the artists while preparing for the tour.

"Individually we are special, but as a group we're really something," she said.

For more information on the tour, call 510-845-2612.

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The menu at Garibaldi's focuses on Mediterranean-California style food, from tantalizing appetizers (sautéed asparagus with pancetta, grilled portobello mushroom) to perfectly



Edgardo and Candela will be appearing at Kimball's East on Thursday, December 16 at 9:30 p.m.

dane entrees (wood oven roasted chicken, paella inspired seafood risotto). And a rich dessert of warm chocolate pudding-cake, espresso ice cream and toasted nuts is enough to satisfy almost anyone.

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Nutcracker choreographer is renowned artist

Ron Guidi, who believes that teaching is as great an art as dancing, furthers a long line of eminent teachers. He studied ballet for ten years under the late Raoul Pausé, director of the Ballet Players Guild of Oakland Pausé, in turn, had studied with the famed Kirov dancer Adolph Bohm and an array of ballet and modern dance choreographers from the Diaghilev era. From 1958 to 1961, Mr. Guidi lived in Italy, Germany and Denmark, expanding his knowledge of classical dance.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Guidi taught for three years as associate supervisor of ballet at the University of California at Berkeley and was a principal dancer with Pausé's company. Mr. Guidi began choreographing ballets for Pausé and was named associate director of the company (renamed Oakland Civic Ballet) in 1961.

In 1965, Mr. Guidi founded Oakland Ballet Academy, and three years later opened the Oakland Ballet Academy

which serves as the primary training ground for future Oakland Ballet dancers.

Mr. Guidi has choreographed over 20 ballets for the Oakland Ballet, among them *Carnival d'Aix*, *Dvorak Dancers*, *El Salon Mexico*, *Fantasia Para Un Gentilhombre*, *Gallops and Kisses*, *In Autumn*, *Sibelius*, *Soirée Musicale*, *Trois Gymnopédies*, and four full-length ballets: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Nutcracker*, and *The Secret Garden*.

In 1986, Mr. Guidi was honored by the Marcus Foster Education Institute as a distinguished alumnus of the Oakland Public Schools. His many awards and honors include the first Bay Area Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Innovation in 1985. He has been a panelist for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council and has served as an adjudicator to the Pacific West Regional Ballet Association and the National Choreography Project.



Victorian holiday decor at Fat Lady

For those of you who grew up with Thomas Nast's image of Santa and for those who enjoy the feel and look of a Victorian Christmas, I recommend the Fat Lady. Located in Jack London Square at 201 Washington Street, once again, Pat and her creative staff have transformed the enchanting restaurant into wonderment.

Golden cherubs are tucked into

snowy clouds. Softly glowing candles amidst the mistletoe and pine boughs bring images of Christmas past and dreams of Christmas future. If you are inclined toward the magic of the season, stop by the Fat Lady, and let your dreams and taste buds revel in the uniqueness of the Fat Lady. Open for weekend breakfast, lunch daily, and banquets.

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Dining & Entertainment GUIDE

SEAFOOD

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Whales Tail
1144 Ballena Blvd., Alameda (510) 522-6200 Located on the water

ITALIAN

Pasta Pelican
2455 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda (510) 864-7427 Behind Webster St. tube

MEXICAN

Chevys
2400 Mariner Sq., Alameda (510) 521-3768 Behind the Webster St. tube

The Cantina
www.greatmex.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Kimball's East
5800 Shellmound, Emeryville (510) 658-2555 Powell St. exit from 880

For information on the Dining & Entertainment Guide, call Duke Reedy at (510) 339-4036

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The Auto Section

The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

December 10, 1999

Section D

Trends A crossover by any other name would be as weird [D2]

Reviews Hitch up to a Herman for all your off-road needs [D3]

Maintenance The Auto Doctor, aka Junior Damato, is in [D4]

2000 Chevy Suburban proves solid hauler

Get off the Road

Christopher Keane

If a road trip means hauling along everything and everybody, Chevy's Suburban is the sport utility vehicle for you. Sixty-five years ago, Chevy tagged it the "Carryall." That name just as well describes the 2000 version. Suburban remains a champion yoke ox. A prized beast of burden.

Here's the great surprise, though — someone could expect this full-size behemoth nine-passenger bus to lumber along the road, but Suburban actually rides and handles with the tame agility of a truly friendly animal. With a bevy of modifications for the 2000 model, Chevy has substantially improved driver comfort and control — quieter ride, tighter cornering, more grip on the curves, and plenty of power.

Built on the platform of the Silverado pickup, the new Suburban retains its old family profile: boxy shape, broad shoulders, square nose. The ribbon logo on the grille isn't even necessary; you know it's a Chevy.

Slide inside and you'll find that Suburban continues the Chevy tradition of rather plain and old-fashioned interiors. Yet, there's a complete complement of luxuries including new optional second row captain's chairs and a new 126-watt



AT 5,600 POUNDS, the 2000 Suburban is hardly svelte, but Chevy's new power mills push that weight with ease. Standard for the Suburban 1500 series is a 5.3-liter Vortec V8.

See CHEVY, Page D2

Drive, She Said



Denise McCluggage

"Prepare so that a momentous occasion is not turned into something else..."

Raising the bar on road rules

Holiday office parties in recent years seem to be less heavily laced with liquor than they used to be. For one, many lawsuit-leery companies don't want to risk liability for sending tipsy personnel homeward behind the wheel of a car.

The season seems linked with the sort of cheer that comes with a proof label, and if seeing an old year out has required liquid lubrication, then the passing of a century might demand even more. Keep that in mind as December wanes. Prepare ahead so that a momentous occa-

See BOOZE, Page D2

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Automakers encourage debate on crossover concepts

Anyone attending an auto show in 2000 may find himself at a loss for words, as it is becoming harder to define what various vehicles are. Are they cars? Are they trucks? Are they sport utilities? Are they minivans? Or are they something else?

Already, it could be argued, so-called crossover vehicles — vehicles that straddle multiple categories — have been infiltrating the market. By some definitions, car-like sport utilities, including the Lexus RX 300, Subaru Forester, Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4, and sport-utility-like cars, such as Subaru and Volvo station wagons, already qualify as crossovers.

But the trend started in earnest earlier this year with the Chrysler PT Cruiser. DaimlerChrysler announced in January that it would put into production this vehicle that looks like a 1930s Ford delivery wagon, but with the room and function of a modern-day minivan. Most people found themselves stumped to describe it; DaimlerChrysler Chairman Robert Eaton called it "too cool to categorize" at its unveiling.

Indeed, auto analysts differ on how they will count it. Chris Cedergren, owner of Next-trend, an automotive research firm in Thousand Oaks, doesn't generally use the term crossover; he defines the so-called crossover vehicles as "sport-utility vehicle concepts that ride on a car platform."

However, he, like DaimlerChrysler, considers the Chrysler PT Cruiser clearly a crossover. On the other hand, J.D. Power and Associates, the Agoura Hills market research company, plans to count it among minivans. George Peterson, president of AutoPacific Inc., in Tustin calls it a car categorized as a truck purely for federal fuel economy considerations.

While the PT Cruiser represents the extreme, other vehicles shown at auto shows last year generated similar debate. At the auto show in Detroit in January, Ford unveiled the Explorer Sport Trac, and announced it would go on sale in 2000. One could argue it is a sport utility with a pickup bed, or that it is a pickup truck with a bed and extended cab. The Ford Escape, a sport utility supposedly with the car nimbleness

Down the Road

Michelle Krebs

The debate about how vehicles are categorized will continue into the new millennium starting with the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January.

which likely will have Mazda and Lincoln derivatives, and the Lincoln Blackwood, a Navigator cabin with a fancy pickup bed, are other upcoming examples.

General Motors joins the fray over the next few years with a host of car-based sport utility crossovers such as the Buick Rendezvous, the Pontiac Aztec, the Cadillac Catera-based LAV and possibly Saturn sport utility with a pickup bed. Cadillac may compete with the Blackwood with an Escalade with a pickup bed.

The imports will have their own variations on the theme. The 2000 BMW X5 sports activity vehicle qualifies as it combines BMW automobile performance with a sport utility. The next generation of existing crossovers, including the popular Lexus RX 300, debut in the next millennium along with a Toyota derivative, and other vehicle manufacturers will introduce completely new offerings, including the Hyundai Santa Fe and a Rodeo-based crossover from Isuzu.

The debate about how vehicles are categorized will continue into the new millennium starting with the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January. A number of vehicles that cross over into mul-

tipule product categories will be on display.

One surely to stump people is the Chevrolet SSR concept. Like DaimlerChrysler's Jeepster concept a few years ago, the SSR combines truck exterior styling with a sports car/roadster interior and performance.

Another subject surely to be debated at this year's show will be just how big the market is for crossover vehicles. Analysts predict crossovers represent 300,000 vehicle sales a year or as many as 1.5 million in the next decade, about the same number of mini-

vans sold every year now.

Though their forecasts vary widely, they agree that crossover vehicles will represent one of the fastest growing vehicle categories in the new millennium.

Then comes the question of who will have the winning formula — who will have the right dash of truck and the appropriate measure of car? Automakers aren't sure themselves. To cover their bets, they have multipronged strategies to find what combination will appeal to the larger niches.

Both DaimlerChrysler and Ford are going in a few directions. Ford seems to be leaning toward the sport utility formula.

The winning formula, performance and sport-utility look like the Lexus RX 300 and the to Pacific's Peterson, meaning, especially with the Escape as

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Booze

FROM PAGE D1

sion is not turned into something else by the unwise mixing of alcohol and gasoline. Here are some points to consider:

■ You don't have to be legally drunk to compromise judgment and motor skills.

A Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.10 is a common legal limit with a trend toward lowering that to 0.08. So with a BAC of 0.06 (about three glasses of wine in an hour) you could be legally "sober," but nonetheless, you have doubled your chances of being involved in an accident. With hard liquor, your BAC will be about 0.15. That means your chances of being involved in a car crash have increased 25 times.

■ Don't drink and drive and don't ride with a drinker.

Whether your closest friend, a family member or someone else's friend is at the wheel, it is up to you to make certain that the person is not impaired. Don't let any concern about being rude or looking foolish keep you from asking blunt questions. If you don't like the answers, don't become a passenger. Things can be worse than being stranded. Like being collected amidst by an 18-wheeler because your "just had a few" driver fails to stop at a light.

■ Alcohol works fast.

Alcohol is absorbed directly into the bloodstream through the walls of the stomach. The rate of absorption is affected by how much and what is in the stomach and how fizzy the drink is. Greasy foods slow down the rate of absorption. An empty stomach and effervescence speed it up. (The bubbly doesn't just feel as if it goes straight to your head, it does.)

■ Only time is truly sobering.

Cold showers chill you, coffee wakes you up. Try these and you may be clean, shivering and wide-eyed, but you will not have has-

tened the sobering process. Only time rids the system of alcohol and its effect. BAC will drop about 0.015 percent each hour from the last drink.

■ All drinks are not equal.

It's the alcoholic content of the beverage that counts. Two beers have about an ounce of alcohol, but one martini has something more than an ounce. The percentage of alcohol in hard liquor depends on its proof. To take in less alcohol in an hour, choose low proof drinks and sip.

■ All drinkers are not equal.

Keep in mind that BAC means blood alcohol concentration. It's in the percentages, so the same amount of alcohol downed by a large person and a small one will result in different BAC levels. The horse jockey will get drunker than the linebacker on the same tipping.

■ All drivers are not equal.

"I drive better when I'm drunk." Maybe you've heard that. Judgment is the first thing to go. Actually, some tests have shown that some drivers do improve in some driving tests after one drink. Perhaps they are more relaxed and for them that helps. But even for them more drinks erased any advantages. Many drivers, maybe you, experience seriously eroded judgment and driving skills at BAC levels well below what the law allows.

■ Know your own limits.

Allow one "dry" hour for every medium-sized drink you have had, then add another hour for good measure before you consider driving. Learn about alternative transportation. Almost every city has arrangements for sober citizens to drive those who are less sober home. Check them out.

Make a strict, sensible plan to separate any holiday drinking from driving and stick to it. Don't let "just this once" creep into it. And don't forget that useful standby, the designated driver.

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Chevy

FROM PAGE D1

nine-speaker audio system. By the way, entry is more of a slide-in rather than a quad-stretching climb like some other full-size SUVs, making Suburban more kid friendly.

Suburban is no longer the biggest of the big-boy SUVs. Its competitor, the Ford Excursion, owns that title by more than a half foot stretch beyond Suburban's 18-foot length. Excursion is also wider and taller. However, Suburban holds nearly as much cargo room — a warehouse-like 138 cubic feet with the second and third rows removed. It out-tows Excursion with a class-leading 10,500 pounds, and Suburban does it all in a vehicle that's more than 1,200 pounds lighter than the Ford.

At 5,600 pounds, the 2000 Suburban is hardly svelte, but Chevy's new power miles push that weight with ease. Standard for the Suburban 1500-series is a 5.3-liter Vortec V8. It replaces a larger 5.7-liter engine, but produces 30 more horses and almost as much torque. A 300-horsepower 6.0-liter V8 is standard on the 2500-series — that's 10 more horses than Chevy's old 7.4-liter V8. Although torque has decreased to 355 pound-feet, engineers tweaked the engines to deliver torque over a broader rpm range — and towing capacities have increased.

Both engines are mated to Chevy's smooth four-speed automatic transmission. New features include a larger sump to reduce heat build-up and a standard gauge for monitoring transmission fluid temperature.

Chevy engineers also modernized Sub-

urban under the skin. The new Suburban employs a more rigid modular frame, five-link coil spring rear suspension, real-time suspension damping, and self-leveling rear shocks. Traditional rear leaf springs are still used on the heavy-duty 2500 models.

I've always appreciated the way full-size Chevys seem to glide over off-highway trails, but Suburban's updated structure smoothed the off-road performance even more. Suburban's long 130-inch wheelbase makes it one of the best vehicles for cruising along washboard trails — easily eliminating the teeth-rattling chatter found in smaller SUVs. Although its overall size limits Suburban on tight off-road tracks, a spacious 10.0-inch ground clearance and AutoTrac full-time, push-button four-wheel-drive, make it a fine off-roader.

In addition, new larger disc brakes with ABS, side-impact airbags, traction control, and GM's OnStar communications make Suburban an excellent go-anywhere family vehicle.

The 2000 Suburban is available in both two- and four-wheel-drive configurations, in either a 1500-series model — a standard duty "half-ton" truck — or a 2500-series model — a "three-quarter-ton" truck rigged for heavy duty hauling.

Pricing for the base Suburban starts at \$26,360, the mid-line LS version starts at \$33,878 and the upscale LT Suburban starts at \$35,628. Expect a fully-decked Suburban 2500 LT with 4WD to run well over \$40,000.

With 65 years of improvements over its wheels, the 2000 Chevrolet Suburban remains king of the full-size SUVs — for families who want to carry it all anywhere.

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man provides 86 cubic feet of transport space — more than most sport trailers.

Chevy Cav gets new look

The Chevrolet Cavalier receives a fresh new look for the 2000 model year, along with interior, mechanical and electrical enhancements. A new standard anti-lock braking system provides

smoother operation when needed. A new manual transmission and shifter has a more precise shift feel.

Cavalier's 2.2- and 2.4-liter engines have new fuel injectors for better driveability, emissions and reliability.

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Low fuel pressure runs down car's pep

Dear Doctor: I am the original owner of a 1985 Toyota Camry with just under 100,000 miles. I have started to have an intermittent loss of power going up long hills. The engine will slow down, die out, restart immediately and run fine. This only happens on long inclines. The Toyota dealer suggested a lifter replacement at the cost of \$1,200, and no guarantee this will solve the problem. Other independent shops have no clue. A friend has a 1984 Camry with the same problem. There is no time frame on when the car will die out. What can you suggest? Barbara

Dear Barbara: Has the dealer checked fuel pressure and any stored trouble codes? It sounds like loss of fuel pressure verses loss of spark. Ask the dealer or repair shop to hook up a fuel pressure gauge and let you take the car up long hills to monitor fuel pressure. Other possibilities are EGR valve opening too much and too soon, and restriction in the exhaust, or air inlet.

Junior advocates synthetic oils

Dear Doctor: I bought a new Toyota Tundra with the V8 powerplant. I know you like synthetic oils. I would like to use the best product available to enhance the life of the engine. My mechanic does not suggest using synthetic oil until 20,000 miles. His reason is the internal engine parts will not wear in properly. Is there any one oil brand better than another? Al

Dear Al: Yes, I do promote synthetic oils. I suggest waiting 5,000 miles before the use of synthetic oil. The average mileage interval between changes should be 4,000. I know some readers

Ask the Auto Doc

By Junior Damato

will disagree with my suggestions and that is their right. Remember I own and operate a large repair shop and practice what I preach. All name brand oils meet or exceed manufacturers' recommendations. They also have their own secret chemical additive packages.

Something doesn't add up

Dear Doctor: I purchased a 1995 Hyundai Elantra six months ago. Ever since the purchase, the engine has used a quart of oil a week. There are no leaks or clouds of smoke out the tail pipe. The dealer has replaced two cylinder heads and one block, but the problem still exists. What's wrong? Ina

Dear Ina: The shop that replaced the heads and block is missing the correct match. There is a problem in the replacement parts or internal components. I suggest you take the car back and select another brand.

Performance chips perform

Dear Doctor: I own a 1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass with the 3.3-liter V6 engine and would like to replace the computer chip with a performance one. I asked the Oldsmobile dealer for one and they could not help. Do high performance chips really improve performance? Kim

Dear Kim: The majority of performance computer chips will improve performance. I have been evaluating chips and programmers from Hyper-

tech in Tennessee for the last five years. There is a lot of trial and effort that goes into perfecting performance chips. There is a price to pay for performance, such as the initial purchase of the chip, and the use of premium gasoline. The next step is a lower temperature thermostat, performance air filter and exhaust, like the Dyno Max Ultra Flow muffler. These parts are available from performance shops and mail order catalogs.

Don't sit idle on settings

Dear Doctor: I own a 1989 Pontiac Formula Firebird 5.7-liter TPI V8 with the four-speed automatic transmission. The problem is the transmission shifts hard into both forward and reverse. The car seems to lurch when placed in gear. The idle seems at factory specs. Can you help? Alan

Dear Alan: Idle speed is critical. The other factors are engine mounts and transmission line pressure. Too much line pressure will cause a lurching sensation when placed in gear even with the correct idle speed. This will need to be checked by a transmission shop.

Trunk pops eternal

Dear Doctor: I own a 1993 Buick

LeSabre with an electrical problem. Several times when returning to the car in a parking lot, the trunk was open. Intermittently, the doors will not unlock from the driver side control button. The last incident was while driving through town, the door locks cycled lock and unlock. What is the problem? Carolyn

Dear Carolyn: The common factor is the problems are connected to the control module. A quick look on the Mitchell's system has a full trouble shooting guide on your system. Anything from a faulty module, to a relay or receiver will cause this problem.

Take traction to trouble tree

Dear Doctor: I own a 1995 Subaru Legacy 2WD with 68,000 miles. A few weeks ago, the alternator went bad and was replaced at the dealer. They now believe the traction control unit is bad, damaged from the bad alternator. Could this be possible? Joe

Dear Joe: Before the dealer condemns an expensive traction control unit, have them follow a complete trouble tree. It involves a full circuit and component check. A simple trouble code check is only to advise the technician of the problem circuit.

New clean air laws loom for fuel mix

By Denis Cuff
CONTRA COSTA NEWSPAPERS

SACRAMENTO -- Preparing to purge MTBE from California gasoline, air pollution regulators are poised this week to redraw the clean air rules for making fuel.

California Air Resources Board administrators say their plan will ensure air quality without the widespread water contamination that MTBE caused. Some gasoline refiners and sellers, however, said Tuesday that they fear the rules are a recipe for short supplies and steeper prices in a little more than two years.

"We support removing MTBE, but we think the Air Resources Board staff went far beyond that to get additional reductions. We are very concerned," said Dave Forgarty, a spokesman for the Western States Petroleum Association, a lobby for oil refiners.

A group of middlemen gasoline sellers echoed the worry. "California is going to be a gasoline importer with these rules. We are very worried our supplies could get worse and our prices higher," said Evelyn Gibson, spokeswoman for the California Independent Oil Marketers Association.

The air board's Thursday meeting in Sacramento now figures to be one of the most heated public debates over an environmental policy since Gov. Gray Davis took office.

"It's going to be a very interesting debate," said Mark DeSaulnier, a Contra Costa County supervisor and state air board member. He hasn't decided how to vote.

Air board advisers drew up the new rules in response to Davis' order to ban smog-busting MTBE from gasoline by Dec. 31, 2002.

"It's fair to say the gasoline might be slightly cleaner," said Allan Hirsch, a spokesman for the state pollution agency.

Gasoline with the ingredient is 11 percent MTBE by volume.

To offset the loss, the board proposes to alter standards for vapor pressure, evaporation propensity and some of the many ingredients in complex fuel formulas. This will give refiners flexibility to make gasoline differently. To be sure vehicles do not spew more smog-forming hydrocarbons into the air, the state agency had to propose lower sulfur and benzene levels, Hirsch said.

"We put together the specs to break even. It's untrue we went beyond yet. Any reductions were indirect," Hirsch said.

One large East Bay oil refiner broke ranks with its trade association Tuesday and supported the proposed rules.

Tosco does not expect fuel shortages or sharp price increases, said Duane Bordvick, a company vice president for marketing.

"We fully intend to have the same supply," said Bordvick, whose company already is producing gasoline with ethanol to replace MTBE. "We're pretty much convinced our production costs will be flat."

Bordvick said he expects producers of ethanol and other MTBE substitutes will increase their supplies to stabilize the California gas market.

Hirsch said rising demand in California will force the state to increase its fuel imports whether or not MTBE was banned.

"Once refineries from out of state are regularly producing gasoline for California, it tends to stabilize our supplies," Hirsch said. "By becoming a regular fuel importer, California is no longer a fuel island."

California refiners are expected to make \$564 million in equipment changes to make gasoline without any MTBE, state energy officials predict.

Denis Cuff covers water issues and industrial safety. Reach him at 925-228-6172 or dcuff@cctimes.com.

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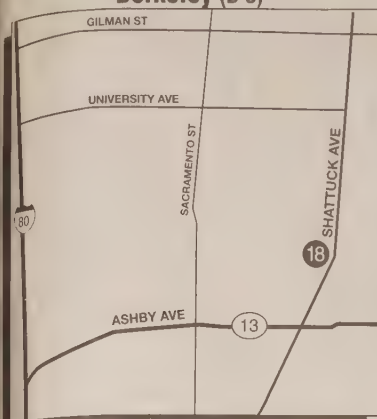
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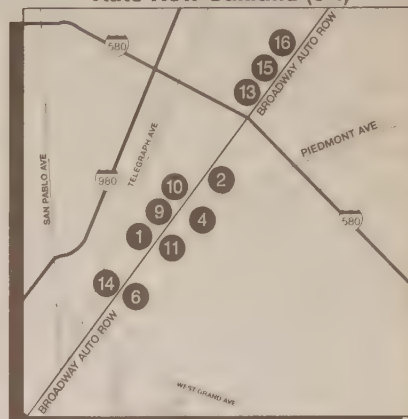
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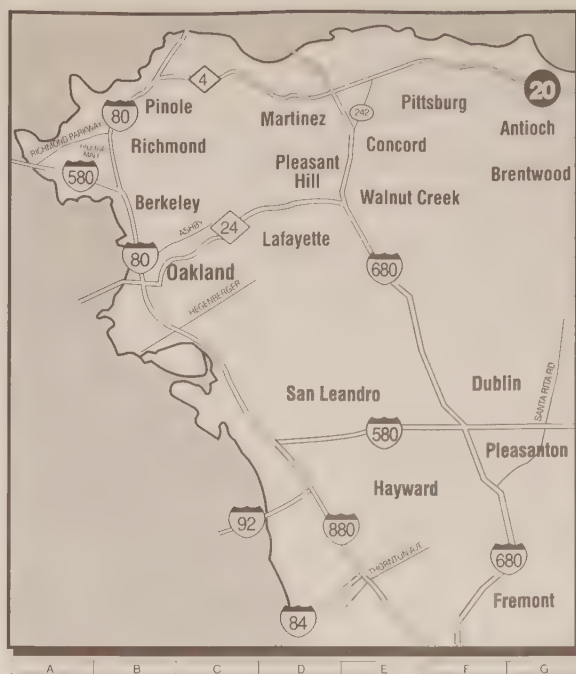
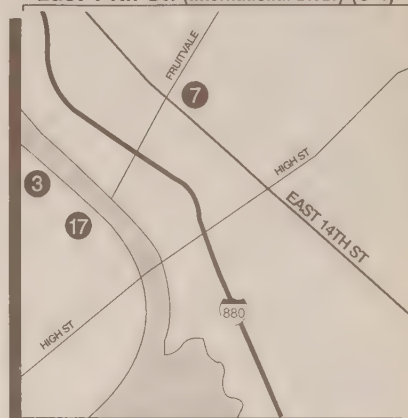
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20. Antioch Dodge (G-1)
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(510) 352-2000 www.chovanes.com

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PONTIAC
BUICK • GMC
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(510) 582-4436

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Square
Auto Center
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San Leandro
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SUBARU**
**SAAB
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(510) 547-4436

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Saturn of Oakland
2355 Broadway Auto Row
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(510) 839-6400

TOYOTA
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4145 Broadway Auto Row
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(510) 547-4436

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8. Marina Square Auto Center (D-5)
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9. Cochran & Celli Auto Center (C-4)
3000 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland
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KIA
7. Lloyd Wise Kia (C-4)
10550 E. 14th St. (International Blvd.) Oakland
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10. Cochran & Celli Auto Center (C-4)
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www.downtowntoyota.com

17. Ron Goode Toyota (C-4)
2424 Clement Ave., Alameda
(800) 574-9106
www.rongoodetoyota.com

18. Toyota of Berkeley (B-3)
2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley
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www.toyotaofberkeley.com

20. Antioch Toyota (G-1)
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 929-606 925-648-0880
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 V8 4K, fully loaded, chrome
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 CD JBL sound system,
 9200-080 (925) 846-7342
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 ture, 121K super rich,
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 ception, 4K, loaded, 110K,
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ISSAN '94 Maxima, A/T 79K, all pwr A/C, excel cond \$9900 (510) 799-1162

NTIAC '94 Grand Am, 95K,
green/beige, \$3900
(5) 256-8383

NTIAC '93 Bonneville, A/T,
C, AM/FM Cass excel

ARU '92 GL Legacy Wgn
all pwr., 97K, \$4998
283-2412

ARU '82 GL wht hchbk.
gd for mech or teen-
r, \$900 (925) 299-0880

OTA '99 Camry LE pw,
18K mi, dark blue

OTA '89 Camry LE Fully
ed, excel. cond, 148K,
0/obo (925) 427-7219

OTA '89 Corolla Wgn. 5
a/c, cass, runs/looks
\$3800 925/340-7140

TA '83 CELICA GT A/T
mfr. Many new parts
Wobo (925) 432 7202

TA '78 Celica, Hatch-
5 spd, work car, \$850
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COLLECTIONS

Join Our team Account Managers Unit Managers

Extensive Credit Recovery. Inc. is looking for individuals who desire an exciting, challenging and rewarding opportunity as an ACCOUNT MANAGER. If you have a positive attitude, strong work ethic, excellent listening skills and team spirit, contact us now if you possess a high school diploma or GED, experience in customer service, collections, or sales and telemarketing, we want to speak with you!

If you have at least 2-5 years experience in collections, supervision and management as well as outstanding customer service and leadership skills, we want to speak with you. Extensive training and support. UNIT MANAGERS to direct and manage a team of Account Managers.

Extensive competitive salary, incentive opportunities. Working in our Web Tools Division. You will be responsible for the sales and management of our Unit Managers. We are seeking Software Engineers. Prefer experience in C/C++ application development, Windows NT, Experience with database development, and helpful in all levels. Positions available in Concord, CA. Indicate job code 925-933-6050 for application.

As a Control Tech Technician working in our Web Tools Division, you will be responsible for the sales and management of our Unit Managers. We are seeking Software Engineers. Prefer experience in C/C++ application development, Windows NT, Experience with database development, and helpful in all levels. Positions available in Concord, CA. Indicate job code 925-933-6050 for application.

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Do more than just code and design! Call us for exciting contract & perm positions all over the Bay Area

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- Java/JSP Developer
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QA ANALYST

C-bridge Solutions, a provider of strategic internet consulting, development and implementation services, is growing rapidly, creating unlimited opportunities for individuals who want to be on the cutting edge of e-commerce technology. We have the following position available working for a major acct. located in San Ramon:

Using processes & tools from C-bridge's RAPID Delivery methodology, you'll work with customer to define acceptance criteria, create/implement QA plans, develop/execute system testing, & release new system versions.

This position requires proven exp. in testing systems for internet software. Must have 2+ yrs. exp. in QA, testing, development, & implementation using SQA & MISC. Must be a team player, detail oriented, & able to write, debug, & troubleshoot. E-mail resume to: pschmidt@c-bridge.com

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COMPUTER

PC Technician/NT Workstation Administrator

Duties include installation, configuration and troubleshooting of hardware and software for client Win 9x and NT Workstation PCs, daily backups and the administration of server NT servers. Requires 6+ months of direct experience as a PC hardware technician and NT/Windows network administrator. Experience in testing and troubleshooting users' problems, printers, login scripts, and network connectivity. Must have a strong understanding of TCP/IP, DHCP, DNS, WINS, Exchange, Proxy and excellent troubleshooting abilities. You must have excellent interpersonal skills, customer service orientation, & be able to write good documentation. Job Code PCT-02.

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IS PROFESSIONALS

Sharp HealthCare, a SAN DIEGO based company, is seeking experienced IS professionals for its growing organization. We are seeking individuals with 5+ years of experience in the following areas:

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- Database Administrators
- Network Administrators
- Help Desk Support

For information on specific positions please visit our website at: www.sharp.com or call: (619) 444-1111. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Systems Installation Engineer. Cabling and installation of voice and data PBX telephone systems. Inventory Control Administrator. This entry level position requires basic knowledge of computerized inventory systems and accounting processes.

Materials Assistant. Entry level position responsible for receiving, storing, and issuing materials to various departments. Must have excellent driving record and provide current DMV report.

Project Manager. Perform project coordination at customer sites of industrial, commercial, and government applications and software design. Experience in call center, sales, and PBX desired.

Technical Support Engineer. Direct contact with customers for remote service of voice mail and PBX systems. Troubleshooting, diagnosis, and repair of voice mail and PBX systems. Troubleshooting, diagnosis, and repair of voice mail and PBX systems. Troubleshooting, diagnosis, and repair of voice mail and PBX systems.

250 Help Wanted

Construction Manager

Prints Plus, the nation's leading retailer of posters & framing, is seeking an independent salesperson to represent our products in the San Francisco Bay Area. The ideal candidate will have multi-project management experience, excellent negotiation skills, and experience with construction documents, methods and practices. General Contractors license preferred. Travel up to one-third of the time expected.

Send resume to: Prints Plus, Attn: HR-ADM-205/C, 2500 Base Lane, Suite 200, Concord, CA 94520. Fax: 925-922-0408. We are an EOE and value diversity in our workforce.

250 Help Wanted

COOK & DIETARY AIDE

FT. We seek individuals for O.E. necessary. Pleasanton Convalescent Hospital, 300 Neal St., Pleasanton, CA 94566. Phone: 925-462-2400, Fax: 925-462-4372.

COOK. Walnut Creek Hospital, a progressive, psychiatric facility known for its innovative treatment programs and individualized services with institutional food service background.

COOK. On-call/weekends 4-8 hr. shifts.

DIETARY AIDE. On-call, nights & weekends 4-8 hr. shifts.

Mail/Fax resume to: HR, 175 La Casa Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Fax: 925-923-2629 EOE

250 Help Wanted

COUNSELOR

Detour Center on call relief for Concord. Minimum 1 yr. experience, 2 yrs. sobriety if recovering addict. Must be sober, non-smoking, non-drinking, non-drug, non-alcohol. Must have a valid driver's license. Fax resume to: Tim (925) 816-3275

COUNSELOR. Walnut Creek Hospital, a progressive, psychiatric facility known for its innovative treatment programs and individualized services with institutional food service background.

COUNSELOR. Walnut Creek Hospital, a progressive, psychiatric facility known for its innovative treatment programs and individualized services with institutional food service background.

250 Help Wanted

CERICAL

Support clerical needed for clerical workers' comp firm to perform multiple tasks in an office setting. Excellent manner. Send resume to: Stanley Dr. #205, Concord, CA 94520. Fax: (925) 925-933-6050

Clerical. Typist/Receptionist. FT. Detailed, people oriented. Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, PowerPoint. 1265 Dainty Ave., Brentwood, CA 94005. Fax: (415) 835-8882

Clerical. Vallejo City Unified School District. Seeking Staff Secretary. #16111. \$24,000/mo. \$24,000/mo. Full-time position. To apply, call: (707) 331-2111. Fax: (707) 331-2111. M-F, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. AEOE. Fax: (707) 331-2111

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Collectively We're Doing Something Different

As a Control Tech Technician working in our Web Tools Division, you will be responsible for the sales and management of our Unit Managers. We are seeking Software Engineers. Prefer experience in C/C++ application development, Windows NT, Experience with database development, and helpful in all levels. Positions available in Concord, CA. Indicate job code 925-933-6050 for application.

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COMPUTER. Gardner Systems Inc. (GSI), a leading provider of Management Systems Development, is seeking Software Engineers. Prefer experience in C/C++ application development, Windows NT, Experience with database development, and helpful in all levels. Positions available in Concord, CA. Indicate job code 925-933-6050 for application.

COMPUTER. HELP DESK/TECH SUPPORT. We are seeking individuals for our Help Desk/Tech Support position. Must have 2+ years of experience in customer service, problem solving, and technical support. Must be a team player, detail oriented, and able to write good documentation. Job Code PCT-02.

250 Help Wanted

COMPUTER

EDI Coordinator

The ideal candidate will be responsible for working with Winterland's EDI Trading Partners to ensure that all data and business objectives are met. This position requires a minimum of 2 years of experience in EDI, with a strong understanding of the technical aspects of EDI. The ideal candidate will be responsible for working with Winterland's EDI Trading Partners to ensure that all data and business objectives are met. This position requires a minimum of 2 years of experience in EDI, with a strong understanding of the technical aspects of EDI.

250 Help Wanted

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Tech Recruiter

Great Opportunity! PSC, a professional staffing firm, is seeking a Tech Recruiter to join our team. The ideal candidate will be responsible for recruiting and hiring individuals for various technical positions. Must have 2+ years of experience in recruiting and hiring, with a strong understanding of the technical aspects of the positions. The ideal candidate will be responsible for recruiting and hiring individuals for various technical positions. Must have 2+ years of experience in recruiting and hiring, with a strong understanding of the technical aspects of the positions.

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Join The Astound Technical Team

Seren Innovations Inc. is a state-of-the-art telecommunications company offering cable television, high-speed Internet access and telephone services via an integrated fiber optic and coaxial cable network. Seren Innovations will begin offering services under the Astound brand in Contra Costa County in December, 1999 and has immediate openings for the following positions:

Digital Head-End Technicians: Maintain and troubleshoot digital electronics associated with the receiving and distribution of digital video signals. Must be familiar with A/D conversion, MPEGII, QAM modulation techniques and related test equipment. Experience with Scientific Atlantic equipment a plus. Must adhere to all company safety standards.

Analog Head-End Technicians: Maintain and troubleshoot electronics associated with the receiving and distribution of analog video signals from satellite receiver to fiber network. Must be familiar with FCC proof of performance requirements, use of signal processing equipment and all related test equipment. Must adhere to all company safety standards.

Pay-per-view Technician: Maintain and operate video server for video-on-demand service. Must be A+ certified technician familiar with UNIX systems.

Multiple Dwelling Unit Design Specialist: Walk out and design wiring plans for multiple unit dwellings. Must have CATV and CAD experience.

In addition to Medical and Dental benefits, Seren Innovations offers pension, 401K, hiring, yearly and long term bonus incentives to all employees. If you are interested in joining a dedicated team of telecommunications professionals and working for a company with great growth potential, please contact us.

Mail your resume to: Seren Innovations, PMB 501, 6680 Alhambra Ave., Martinez, CA 94553

E-mail: reception@seren.com
FAX: (925) 676-0659

Or stop by our office at 2250 Galaxy Ct., Concord, CA and pick up an application.

COMMERCE ONE

Commerce One is a global leader in business-to-business electronic commerce. We need all levels of the following jobs:

- Engineers: software; sales;
- network; scientist; support
- Product/Marketing Managers
- Systems Administrators/Analysts
- Technical Writers/Trainers
- Database Administrators
- Project/Program Managers

Send your resume via: e-mail: commerceone@alexus.com mail: 1600 Riviera Avenue, Suite 200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 fax: 925-941-4420

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COMPUTER. Software Engineers. TechExcel, Inc., a fast growing software development and consulting Co. in Lafayette, CA, is looking for Software Engineers. Must have 2+ years of experience in software development, programming, and testing. Must be a team player, detail oriented, and able to write good documentation. Job Code PCT-02.

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- Systems Administrators/Analysts
- Technical Writers/Trainers
- Database Administrators
- Project/Program Managers

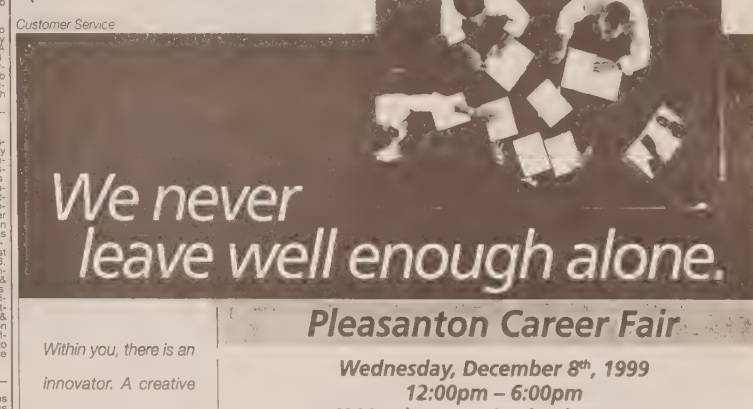
Send your resume via: e-mail: commerceone@alexus.com mail: 1600 Riviera Avenue, Suite 200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 fax: 925-941-4420

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- network; scientist; support
- Product/Marketing Managers
- Systems Administrators/Analysts
- Technical Writers/Trainers
- Database Administrators
- Project/Program Managers

Send your resume via: e-mail: commerceone@alexus.com mail: 1600 Riviera Avenue, Suite 200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 fax: 925-941-4420



We never leave well enough alone.

Pleasanton Career Fair

Wednesday, December 8th, 1999
12:00pm - 6:00pm
4900 Johnson Drive in Pleasanton

At the event, candidates will have the chance to learn more about our company, the opportunities we have available and meet directly with one of our Hiring Managers. We are seeking the following professionals:

- Credit Specialist Trainees/ Early Collections
Job Code 99-913959
- Customer Service Representatives
Job Code 99-913957
- Fraud/Security Representatives
Job Code 99-03234
- Home Loan Collectors
Job Code 99-913958
- Loan Counselors
Job Code 99-913964
- Loan Specialists
Job Code 99-913958
- Personal Bankers - Inbound/ Retention
Job Code 99-913956
- Personal Bankers - Test Center
Job Code 99-913956
- Personal Bankers - New Account Sales
Job Code 99-913956
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Job Code 99-913963
- Telecredit Representatives
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If unable to attend, please send your resume to: Providian Financial, (specify Job Code of interest), 4900 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588. Fax: (925) 463-8162.

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For directions call (800) 441-4214

Job Network

The largest employment classified section in the greater East Bay Area

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250 Help Wanted

Customer Service Rep.
San Ramon, 1 yr. exp. Heavy
phones, organizational skills,
bus letter writing skills, Word
& Excel computer skills
must. Touch type 35 WPM
Fax resume (925) 930-8494
Mail to P.O. Box 5164, San
Ramon, CA 94583 Attn
Human Resources

250 Help Wanted

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Client Services Reps! Great
opportunities
home warranty co. in San Ra-
mon. Fun, casual, call center.
Positions are temp-perm
w/growth potential. Jennifer
at KEY (925) 934-1311 or Fax
(925) 932-3254

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Quick & Easy!

Transportation

OPPORTUNITIES IN
SAN LEANDRO!

As the fastest growing division of \$4.7-billion Ryder
System, a global leader in transportation services, Ryder
Integrated Logistics is the ideal place for quality and
customer-focused professionals who want to accelerate
their careers. Join our winning team as one of our:

DISPATCHER

We seek a detail-oriented individual who will be
responsible for scheduling, dispatching, and interfacing
with drivers and customers. The selected candidate will
have at least 1-3 years of dispatch experience; working
knowledge of MS Excel and MS Word; proven leadership
abilities; and excellent communications and problem
solving skills.

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER

Responsibilities for this position include the management
of daily operations, coordinating shipments with cus-
tomer, and management of drivers and subcontractors
in a fast-paced environment. The selected candidate
will have at least 3-5 years of transportation manage-
ment experience; BS degree or equivalent; excellent
PC, analytical, and communication skills; the ability to
provide creative thinking and manage multiple tasks;
and strong organizational abilities.

We offer competitive compensation, excellent benefits,
and performance based growth potential. Please for-
ward your resume with salary requirements to Ryder
Integrated Logistics, 2420 Yates Avenue, Room
109, Commerce, CA 90040; Fax: (323) 726-3593.
An EOE. Drug testing is a condition of employment
with Ryder.

Ryder
Integrated Logistics

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CUSTOMER SERVICE
Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!
15-20 Customer Svc. Reps
needed for rd. co. No exp.
nec. will train Great pay -
brnits 910-985-0196

CUSTOMER SERVICE
HEALTHCARE CALL
CENTER AGENTS
Please see Kaiser Perma-
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Lovely W.C. office needs de-
dicated phone friendly voices
to do customer satisfaction
surveys \$9 hr. No Sales.
20-40 hrs. day shift. Martz
Marketing Research Inc. for
more info-call Carolyn @
925-943-4259

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CUSTOMER SERVICE
Small E. Bay publishing co.
Responsibilities incl. cus-
tomer relations, phones &
other related work. Individual
must be self-starter with flexi-
bility to handle varying work
loads & tasks. Send resume
& sal. history to: Parlay Int'l.,
Dept. 1427, P.O. Box 9817,
Emeryville, CA 94662-0817

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DATA ENTRY
Basic Tickets Incoming call
center seeking ticket service
representatives for sales and
customer service positions.
Excellent work environment.
Progressive salary and com-
mission. Must have PC, cus-
tomer service, and sales exp.
AM/PM shifts avail. Come join
the BASS family. Apply 3-5
Mon-Fri 1855 Gateway Blvd
#830 Concord, CA 94520

DATA ENTRY
CRIMINAL. Must have own
transp., detail oriented.
Compulsive knowledge of
court records. P/T pos. may
consider P/T. Fax resume to
925-927-9972 or call Danielle
or Claudia at 925-927-9990

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\$8-\$10/hr. after free training.
Apply Thurs. 12-2 PM
184 E. Leland Rd. #A Pitts-
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P/T friendly, energetic Deli-
counter Clerk for Good Na-
ture Grocery. Grt. benefits.
Grt. working environ. P's ap-
ply at 1359 N Main St. W.C.

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P/T winds. Need CDL, pickup,
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250 Help Wanted

DENTAL Asst./Professionals
We need your skills for in-of-
fice dental product support
sales. Trade Shows. Great
Opportunity! Includes
Self Comm./Bonus/Bnfts. Fax
resume to (925) 928-0886

DENTAL Hygienist
Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-2, 3 den-
tists. Sal. avg. \$400 daily.
N. Berkeley. (510) 524-3984; Fax: (510) 524-0518; Eve. & Weekend
(925) 738-6170

DENTAL
Exp. Dental Asst.
wanted for W.C. office. 4
days/wk. 1 Sat m. Please
call (925) 939-0453

DENTAL HYGIENIST
needed in Lafayette ofc. for Mondays
Fax resume 925-283-4011

DENTAL HYGIENIST
P.H. ofc.
Mon or Wed 9-5 PM. No
Med-Cal or PPO's. High
compensation for exp. &
bonus. resumes to Dr's. Barrett &
Molnar (925) 682-6118

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Tue/Wed W.C.
(925) 934-9580

DENTAL
Office Administrator
For gen. fam. practice
Exp'd. Dentist, outstanding
people skills. FT. Danville
Contact Karen 925-920-2121

DENTAL
RD. 4 days/wk.
for busy, caring Danville G.P.
Fax resume 925-736-4327

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www.hotcoco.com/jobs

250 Help Wanted

Education Valley City Unified School District is seeking a qualified teacher for Coach/PT (2647). Special Education-2nd grade. Salary \$21,140.00. Apply to 211 Valle Vista Parkway, M.F. 7:30am-5:00pm. A/E/OE 707-556-8925

Electronics Helper Temp work, low voltage. Will train. Must have some electrical experience. Call (415) 383-3956

INSTALLER

MARTINEZ

Bay Alarm, a recognized leader in the electronic security systems industry, has an immediate opening in our Martinez territory for an installer.

The ideal candidate will have proven customer service skills, clean driving record, and the ability to do physical work. Must be a native English speaker. Please send resume to Bay Alarm, HR/EO, P.O. Box 8140, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or fax to (925) 940-2877. E-mail: hr@bayalarm.com.

If you are looking for career advancement, a good company name to stand behind, a challenging position, a great environment, and excellent salary/benefits, this is the job for you! Please send resume to Bay Alarm, HR/EO, P.O. Box 8140, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or fax to (925) 940-2877. E-mail: hr@bayalarm.com.

BAY ALARM Equal Opportunity Employer

ELECTRICIAN Journeyman w/3-5 yrs exp. need tools. Call (925) 685-7777

ELECTRICIAN Marine exp. Great opportunity. We are looking for a Marine Electrician to join our team. Please send resume to Bay Alarm, HR/EO, P.O. Box 8140, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or fax to (925) 940-2877. E-mail: hr@bayalarm.com.

ELECTRICIAN Apprentice need clean DWI, a prof. student, and a desire to learn. Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm. Post resume to (925) 940-2877. E-mail: hr@bayalarm.com.

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Golden Fig Cake

(Preparation time 30 minutes, baking time 1 hour to 1 hour, 15 minutes)

1/2 cup sliced natural almonds
2 and 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/4 teaspoons soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
2/3 cup butter
1 cup packed light brown sugar
4 eggs
2/3 cup orange marmalade
1/3 cup sour cream
2/3 cup almond-flavored liqueur (amaretto) or orange juice
1 cup (6 ounces) chopped dried figs
Confectioner's sugar

Preheat oven to 350 F. Very generously butter a 9-cup Bundt pan. Sprinkle with almonds, patting gently to cover sides. Set aside. Mix flour, soda and salt in small bowl; set aside.

In a large mixer bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Stir in marmalade and sour cream (mixture will look curdled). Add flour mixture alternately with liqueur or orange juice, blending well after each addition until batter is smooth. Stir in figs. Turn into prepared pan; spread evenly.

Bake for 60 to 70 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool 10 minutes. Invert on wire rack and cool completely. Just before serving, sift confectioner's sugar on top.

Makes 1 eight-inch Bundt cake to serve 16.



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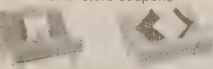
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New take on moussaka flavors this traditional Greek dish

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkey Moussaka is a variation of the traditional baked eggplant and meat casserole that is a staple of Greek cuisine.

The recipe was developed by German-born Helmut Hamann, a professional chef and food consultant from the New York City area — and a big fan of ethnic cuisine.

"This was my first attempt at moussaka and I loved it," he says. "Now it's a favorite of mine."

He describes moussaka as an easy and inexpensive dish you can make from familiar ingredients. "It can be prepared ahead. Just keep it in the refrigerator for a day or two, then bake it up."

He says turkey is an excellent match for this recipe, "because its mild flavor brings out the bold flavors of this Greek dish. I find that spices really come alive when using turkey."

He calls cinnamon the signature spice in many Greek recipes and says he uses it here to keep the Greek style and flavor.

Turkey Moussaka

1 large eggplant, peeled
Salt and pepper, to taste
½ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup olive oil
1 medium onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 pound ground turkey
¾ cup crushed canned tomatoes
½ cup tomato paste
¾ teaspoon ground oregano

¼ teaspoon cinnamon
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
Cream Sauce (recipe follows)

Heat oven to 350 F.
Cut eggplant lengthwise into ½-inch-thick slices.

Lightly sprinkle with salt and pepper and turn in flour.

Heat oil in large skillet, several tablespoons at a time.

Place eggplant in skillet and saute on both sides over medium-high heat.

Transfer eggplant to paper towels.

In the same skillet, add onion and garlic and saute until golden brown.

Stir in ground turkey breast. Cook 5 minutes, stirring. Add tomatoes, tomato paste, oregano and cinnamon. Simmer 10 minutes until most of the liquid evaporates. Line the bottom of an 8-by-8-inch greased pan with a layer of eggplant and sprinkle with half the Parmesan cheese.

Spoon in turkey mixture. Cover with remaining eggplant. Spoon Cream Sauce over top and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Bake 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Cream Sauce

1 cup milk, divided
1 tablespoon butter
1 egg
2½ tablespoons all-purpose flour
Dash of salt
Heat ½ cup of the milk and the butter.

In a small saucepan, beat egg, the remaining milk, flour and salt together until smooth.

Slowly add milk and melted butter mixture in a thin stream, stirring constantly with a whisk.

Bring to a slow simmer and cook for 1 minute.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Nutrition information

(per serving, based on 6 servings)
450 cal.,
24 g pro.,
28 g fat,
27 g carbo.,
380 mg sodium,
90 mg chol.

A vegetarian delight: Carrot Cardamom Soup

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Bowl food" is a comforting concept. Having every element of a dish cut up into bite-sized morsels is inviting and homey. All you need to do is dig in.

"Bowls are eater-friendly. They say, 'Good stuff inside, sit down and enjoy,'" Lynne Aronson, owner of Lola Bowls in New York, said. Aronson's eatery serves Asian and Mediterranean cuisine in bowls of all kinds: deep bowls for soups and stews, small bowls for dips and sauces, and shallow bowls for dumplings and stuffed foods.

This recipe for Carrot Cardamom Soup comes from "Bowlfood Cookbook: 200 Exciting, Eclectic Recipes to Spoon, Slurp, Twirl & Dip" (Workman, \$12.95). It is written by Aronson and Elizabeth Simon.

Soup may be the original "bowl food." The aromatic spice and herb blend traditionally found in Indian foods turns carrot soup into something special. The blend is based on cardamom, which is in the ginger family.

2 tablespoons olive oil

Please see CARROT, Page 3

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Books offer a taste of French cuisine, with a fond glance at Paris

By Joan Brunskill
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Food writers never tire of dwelling fondly on the cuisine of France, and recalling their favorite Parisian bistros.

Treat yourself to an armchair excursion with them via some new books. Then plan to get busy in the kitchen — or if your time and budget allow, call the travel agent and track the experiences to their source.

"Savoir Cooks Authentic French" (Chronicle Books, \$40) is the work of the editors of *Savoir* magazine. It's self-described as "Rediscovering the Recipes, Traditions, and Flavors of the World's Greatest Cuisine."

The book is a wonderful read, a tour-in-depth of a revered cuisine by writers and photographers who regularly contribute to the magazine.

Chapter headings run from Hors d'oeuvres through Desserts, the classic definitions. But the interviews, research and colorful photos they feature range from refined to raw, from village markets in Provence to the Cordon Bleu in Paris, from the apple orchards of Normandy to an inn in the Pyrenees.

The editors tell the story of a village where mass is said for the truffles. They quote Proust on madeleines; they give recipes for the real Quiche Lorraine (no cheese) and Frogs' Legs and Snails in Parsley Butter.

Nice-Style Stuffed Vegetables is something American home cooks could try. Most restaurants and home cooks in Nice use this kind of all-purpose stuffing recipe for a variety of vegetables, the book's editors say.

Nice-Style Stuffed Vegetables (Farci a la Nicoise)

3 small eggplants
6 small green or red bell peppers
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
Salt
3 small yellow onions, peeled
3 small zucchini
3 medium tomatoes
¼ pound lean salt pork, diced
½ pound ground lamb
¾ cup cooked rice
1 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
Freshly ground black pepper
2 eggs, lightly beaten
½ cup finely grated parmigiano-reggiano (see note)

½ cup fresh bread crumbs
1 bunch fresh thyme
Preheat oven to 350 F. Cut eggplants in half lengthwise. Cut tops from peppers, then core and seed them. Place eggplants and peppers on an oiled baking sheet and brush lightly with oil. Bake for 30 minutes, then remove from oven

and set aside to cool. When eggplants are cool enough to handle, scoop out pulp, leaving about a ½-inch-thick shell. Chop pulp finely and set aside in a large bowl.

Heat a large pot of salted water over medium heat. Add onions and zucchini and simmer for about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside to cool.

Halve onions crosswise and remove centers, leaving a shell of about 3 outer layers. Halve zucchini lengthwise and scoop out pulp, leaving about a ½-inch-thick shell. Halve tomatoes crosswise, then squeeze out and discard seeds and juice. Scoop pulp from tomatoes, finely chop, and add to eggplant pulp. Finely chop onion centers and zucchini pulp and add them to eggplant mixture as well.

Increase oven temperature to 375 F. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large pan over low heat. Stir in vegetable mixture, salt pork, lamb, rice, parsley and garlic. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat, cool slightly, then stir in eggs.

Fill vegetable shells (don't pack too tightly), top with parmigiano-reggiano and bread crumbs, drizzle with remaining olive oil, and bake for 30 minutes on an oiled baking sheet. Serve garnished with fresh thyme sprigs.

Makes 6 servings.

Note: Parmigiano-reggiano is a top-quality parmesan cheese.

"The Paris Cafe Cookbook" (Morrow, \$24) by Daniel Young has the subtitle "Rendezvous and Recipes from 50 Best Cafes."

Its writer, restaurant critic of the New York Daily News, explains that the French term cafe, in the larger sense, "can be applied to any establishment where you can stop in for nothing more than a beverage and stay for as long as you like."

Thus, all bistros and brasseries do not qualify — unless they welcome people who just want a glass of wine or cup of coffee.

His featured cafes and their recipes were chosen, he says, "for their food first and then for their owners, clientele, ambience, architecture, location, and history and how all these reflect the personality of the many small, independently minded communities within Paris."

Among his choices: Le Bistrot du Peintre's Watercress Soup With Poached Eggs, the Cafe de la Musique's French Fries and — of course — La Poule au Pot's Chicken in the Pot.

The book is illustrated with informal black and white photographs and small color drawings.

"Bistro: Swinging French Jazz, Favorite Parisian Bistro Recipes" (Menus & Music Productions Inc., \$24.95) by Sharon O'Connor offers recipes and advice on how to recreate at

home the food and ambience of a Parisian bistro, complete with sound effects. A compact disc with the music is tucked in the book's back cover.

This is an atmospheric guide to the bistro style, with sample recipes and neighborhood walks to give Parisian context. Ms. O'Connor evokes settings and dishes from a range of bistros in the French capital and two similar in style in this country — Balthazar in New York City and Bouchon in California's Napa Valley.

Easy, everyday recipes include Lentils With Ham, Pears in Red Wine, Chicken With Chive Cream Sauce and Chocolate Mousse. Color photos show food and cityscapes.

"Ismail Merchant's Paris: Filming and Feasting in France" (Abrams, \$39.95) is a collection of pleasantly discursive memoirs complete with 40 recipes and many charming photographs.

The author is better known as the movie producer-director of Merchant Ivory Productions, but he is passionately interested in food, too, and has written other cookbooks.

His reminiscences follow his filmmaking, mostly in Paris but also in the south of France. Photos and text weave together stories of cooking and dining, vignettes of movie stars and locations.

The recipes include basic French, some from French restaurants and some of Merchant's own. A native of India, Merchant's original creations range from Ismail's Incredibly Instant Chicken to Ismail's Indo-Provençal Rice and Ismail's Coriander and Cardamom Drumsticks.

"Patricia Wells at Home in Provence" (Fireside, \$23) is the recently published paperback edition of a 1996 award-winning book with color photographs by Robert Freson. The book was inspired by the farmhouse where the writer and her husband live when they are not in Paris.

"In essence, this book forms a scrapbook of the pleasurable years we have spent in Provence," she says, since they bought the house in 1984 and began to grow roots in the countryside.

There is plenty of text to explain the history of recipes, the local delicacies, and the way the seasons change food's flavors, colors and textures.

The writer is enough in touch with her American background for the recipes to be written with American home cooks in mind. Recipes can be as simple as Potatoes Roasted in Sea Salt, or as sumptuous as Monsieur Henny's Three-Beef Daube.

The latter is "the richest, most sublime daube recipe I know. And one of the prettiest ... Mr. Henny's daube glistens like a jewel and the sauce has a hauntingly rich texture, so smooth you want to coat everything in sight with it."

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Recipes how old? Can you say 'stone tablet'?

By John Kessler
COX NEWS SERVICE

Culinary historians are split into two camps when the question of cooking from historical texts arises. Colman Andrews, editor of the anthropological journal *Savory Magazine*, writes that "most of it isn't things I want to eat today." But he offers the best advice for cooks who are tempted to try. "Perhaps we won't have anything practical to learn, but I'm a big fan of impractical knowledge. It shapes and enriches our practical knowledge."

With that advice in mind, we offer "re-creations" of four historical recipes, each prepared within a slide-scale of orthodoxy.

Braised Turnips From Ancient Mesopotamia

Makes 6 servings

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 15 minutes

This recipe has been developed from one of the four vegetable stews listed on Tablet A in the Yale collection. It is typically terse:

"Meat is not needed. Boil water."

Add onion, spiny

fat (name unknown), coriander

and kanasu (a legume).

Squeeze leek and garlic and spread

on dish. Add onion and mint."

Alan Bottero, the eminent translator

of this recipe, notes this is the

one of the vegetable stews that

don't use some meat, perhaps left

overs as a flavoring. Whether or

it's truly vegetarian is another

matter. The fat may have been lin-

seed or olive oil or even butter but

was mostly likely animal fat, as de-

scribed in other recipes, picked with

the fingers to remove any bits of

fat or sinew. I chose to believe

was olive oil.

In order to adapt this recipe, I

contacted Mediterranean food au-

thority Paula Wolfert. She suggested

bringing a small amount of water

to boil with the olive oil, and then

covering the dish with a lid to truly

raise the turnips. The technique is

typical of modern Turkish vegetable

cooking, says Wolfert. In fact, she

has published a recipe for leeks cooked in precisely this manner, and finished with lemon juice and parsley.

I also had to make some brash assumptions. For the unknown herb translated as "spiny herb" or "dorsal thorn" I chose rosemary; and for the unknown legume, I went with the obvious choice — chickpeas.

I can't say an ancient Mesopotamian would recognize this recipe. But I can assure you a modern American will relish it.

1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds

1/2 teaspoon coriander seeds

1/2 cup water

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 pounds white turnips, peeled and cubed

1 small onion, chopped

1 small branch rosemary

1 (14.5-ounce) can chickpeas, drained

1 small leek, trimmed and finely chopped

3 large cloves garlic

2 green onions, minced

2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint

Roast the coriander and cumin seeds in a baking dish in a pre-

heated, 375-degree oven until

nicely browned, about 10 minutes.

Grind in a mortar or with a spice

grinder. Set aside.

Bring water, salt and oil to the

boil in a 5-quart pot. Add the

peeled turnips, chopped onion,

ground spices, rosemary and lima

beans and cover; reduce heat to

medium-low. Continue braising un-

til the turnips are crisp-tender, about

20 minutes. Transfer the contents

of the pot and its juices to a serving

bow.

Meanwhile, pulse the leek and

garlic in a food processor until well-

ground. Gather into a clean kitchen

towel (or cheesecloth) and squeeze

the juices over the turnips; toss to

mix. Sprinkle with green onions and

mint.

Per serving: 162 calories, 6

grams protein, 5 grams fat (percent

calories from fat, 28), 26 grams car-

bohydrates, no cholesterol, 328 mil-

ligrams sodium, 5 grams fiber.

Kippu Stew

Makes 4 servings

Preparation time: 40 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hour, 20 min-

utes, Chilling time: 1 hour

A kippu is a kind of bird, ac-

cording to Bottero, perhaps a game

bird such as quail, partridge or

woodcock. For this adaption of

Kippu stew, I asked Mary Ann Clay-

ton to develop a recipe that fol-

lowed the spirit, if not the letter, of

the evocative recipes for stewed

poultry from Tablets A and B.

In fact, Mary Ann took the best

of three recipes. From the Kippu

Stew recipe on Tablet A, she cooked

the birds (quail) in a broth flavored

with mint and vinegar. From the

recipe on Tablet A called Stew With

Crumbs, she took the idea of thick-

ening the broth with whole grain.

And from the elaborate poultry pie

recipe on Tablet B, she re-created

the sensation of breaking through

a rich, nutty crust to find a whole

bird. "A lot of flavor," was her as-

essment.

For the crust:

1/2 cup whole-wheat flour

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup shortening or butter

5 tablespoons cold water

For the quail filling:

8 quail

Giblets

2 tablespoons rice vinegar

1 tablespoon salt

4 tablespoons minced fresh mint

4 tablespoons butter, divided

2 leeks (white part only), finely

chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 tablespoons whole-wheat flour

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

6 cups liquid (broth from birds

plus enough water to make 6 cups)

For the crust: In a medium bowl

stir together 1/2 cup whole-wheat

flour, 1/2 cup all-purpose flour and

1 teaspoon salt. Cut in 1/3 cup

shortening or butter until the mix-

ture resembles coarse meal.

Add the cold water and knead

dough into a ball. Refrigerate for at

least 1 hour.

For the quail: Place quail and

giblets in a large pot; add vinegar

and enough water to cover. Bring

to a boil, reduce heat and simmer

for 15 minutes.

Remove quail and rub gently in-

side and out with a mixture of 1 ta-

blespoon salt and the mint. Place

in a casserole dish. Finely chop the

giblets and add to the casserole. Set

aside.

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a

skillet and cook the leeks and gar-

lic until translucent. Sprinkle the

leeks and garlic over the quail in

the casserole. Add 2 tablespoons

butter to the skillet and sprinkle with

whole-wheat and all-purpose flours.

Cook and stir until the flour is lightly

browned. Slowly whisk in the li-

quid and continue cooking until the

sauce is thickened, about 10 min-

utes. Pour the sauce over the quail

in the casserole.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

Roll out the crust into a shape that

fits the casserole. Lay the crust

loosely over the quail and bake for

30 to 35 minutes or until the crust

is nicely browned.

Per serving: 521 calories, 21

grams protein, 33 grams fat (per-

cent calories from fat, 56), 38 grams

carbohydrates, 72 milligrams cho-

lesterol, 2,596 milligrams sodium,

3 grams fiber.

Fish in Coriander Crust

Makes 2 servings

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 20-25 minutes

People have been re-creating

Apicius' recipes since the 15th cen-

tury. Here is British culinary histo-

rian Andrew Dalby's take on this

recipe from Apicius 10, 1, 4:

"Prepare the fish carefully, put in

a mortar salt and coriander seed,

crush finely, roll the fish in it, put in

a baking dish, cover, seal, bake in

the bread oven. When cooked re-

move, season with very sharp vine-

gar and serve."

2 tablespoons coriander seeds

Please see RECIPES, Page 6

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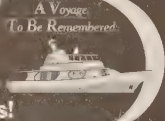
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Turkey blue cheese sandwich with grape salad

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There is no rule that sandwiches can't be served at dinner, and Michele Urvater shows us how to turn a sandwich into a full and satisfying meal without spending time at the stove. Urvater has been cooking professionally for 25 years, as well as teaching it and writing about it.

The recipe for Turkey Blue Cheese Sandwiches With Grape Salad is in her recently published cookbook, "Monday-To-Friday-Chicken" (Workman Publishing, \$22.95).

Turkey Blue Cheese Sandwich with Grape Salad

Preparation time: 20 minutes
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 tablespoons sherry vinegar or balsamic vinegar

Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 bunch (4 ounces) watercress
1½ cup seedless grapes, preferably red
½ cup pecan halves
4 slices whole-wheat bread
2 tablespoons butter
4 ounces blue cheese, crumbled
6 ounces baked or smoked turkey, sliced
Combine oil and vinegar in a small bowl and season lightly with salt and pepper. Rinse the

watercress and cut the stems to about ½ inch of the leaves. Dry the watercress. Rinse the grapes. If they are large, halve them. Coarsely chop the pecans, and combine in a mixing bowl with the watercress, grapes and half the vinaigrette dressing.

Right before serving, toast the bread lightly. Butter the toasted bread slices while still warm, and sprinkle them with the blue cheese.

Drape the turkey slices over the blue cheese, and drizzle the remaining dressing over the turkey.

Serve the sandwiches open-face with the grape and watercress salad on the side.

RECIPES

FROM PAGE 5

1 teaspoon salt
2 fillets of cod, haddock or another mild white fish
White wine vinegar

Roast the coriander seeds in a baking dish in a preheated, 375-degree oven until nicely browned, about 10 minutes.

Cool slightly, then pound with the salt in a mortar until you have a well-broken mixture.

Pat the fish fillets dry with paper towels and remove any small bones. Roll the fillets in the mixture as if it were bread crumbs, then place them in an oiled casserole and cover with a lid. Place in the oven and cook for 20-25 minutes.

Serve immediately, sprinkled with vinegar. — From "The Classical Cookbook" by Andrew Dalby and Sally Grainger (J. Paul Getty Museum Publishers)

Mujaddarra (Rice and Lentil Pilaf)

Preparation time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: up to 2 hours
Clifford A. Wright offers this dish — rice studded with brown lentils and topped with crisped onions — as an example of a modern Arabic recipe that has its roots in medieval times.

1 medium onion, peeled
Salt
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 cup dried brown lentils, picked over and rinsed well
1 tablespoon clarified butter or vegetable oil

1 small onion, finely chopped
2 cups boiling water
1 cup long-grain rice, rinsed well or soaked in water to cover for 30 minutes and drained

Halve the onion, then slice from the stem end into very thin slices, less than 1/16 inch.

Arrange the onion slices on some paper towels, sprinkle generously with salt and leave for 30 minutes covered with paper towels to absorb moisture.

In a medium skillet, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat and toss the onions slices until coated with oil.

Continue turning the onion as the slices turn from white to yellow to brown. Once they turn brown, about 8 to 9 minutes, continue to cook until some turn dark brown, another 2 minutes. Remove the skillet from the burner and quickly

transfer the onions to a paper towel-lined platter to cool and drain. Once they are cool, they will have become crispy.

Bring a pot of lightly salted water to a boil and cook the lentils until al dente, 20 minutes to 1 hour.

Check the lentils occasionally so they are not overcooked, since lentil cooking times differ; they should be

ever so slightly hard, not completely soft.

Drain and set aside.

In a large, heavy casserole or saucepan with a tight-fitting lid, melt the clarified butter over medium-high heat, then cook the chopped onion until golden, 7 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.

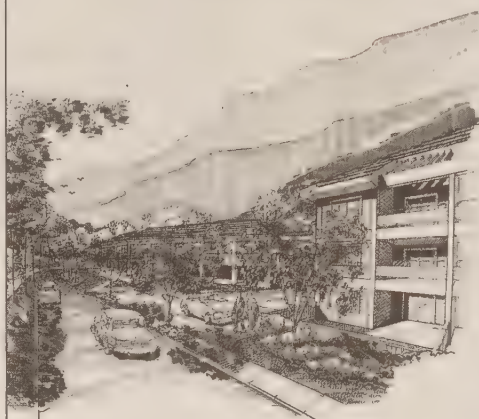
Pour in the boiling water, 1 tea-

spoon salt and reserved lentils, bring to a boil and add drained rice.

Return to a boil, reduce heat to very low, cover and cook until the water is absorbed and the rice is tender, about 30 minutes.

Transfer to a platter and garnish with the crispy onions on top. — From "A Mediterranean Feast" by Clifford A. Wright (Morrow)

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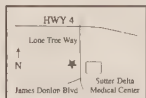


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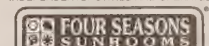
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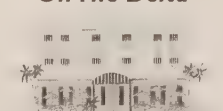
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Low-Fat Cooking: Italian Broiled Salmon

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Italian Broiled Salmon

Ingredients:

• 1 pound salmon fillet

• 1/3rd cup finely chopped fresh parsley

• 2 tablespoons butter

• 1/2 teaspoon finely chopped garlic

• Two 15½-ounce cans Great Northern beans, rinsed and drained

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Making 2 lemons to make about 4 teaspoons of zest.

Squeeze the lemons and reserve the juice.

Combine lemon peel and parsley in a small bowl.

Melt butter in a 10-inch skillet until sizzling; add garlic.

Cook over medium-high heat 2 minutes.

Add 2 tablespoons lemon peel mixture and beans.

Continue cooking until heated

through, 4 minutes to 5 minutes.

To serve, place fish, lemons and bean mixture on serving plate; sprinkle with lemon peel and parsley.

Drizzle with reserved lemon juice. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition facts per serving: 350 cal., 34 g pro., 34 g carbo., 12 g dietary fiber, 8 g fat, 60 mg chol., 310 mg sodium.

Recipe from: Land O' Lakes Inc.

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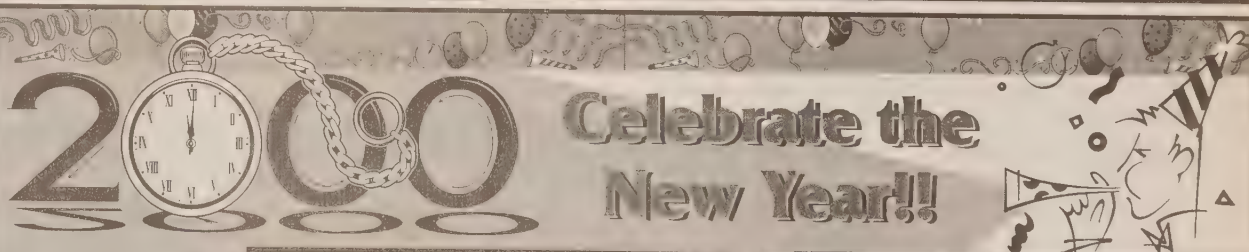
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Follow your nose to learn about fine wines

By Jennifer Lowe
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Seventeen of us plunge our noses into narrow wine glasses, sniffing and straining toward the red liquid at the bottom. We gasp and puff like machines about to breathe their last.

"I smell bacon," one woman says loudly, and a few of us laugh. As if bacon would be something you'd find in a fine wine. Although, who knows? Another taster thought she had detected the scent of hair spray in an earlier glass.

"Actually, bacon fat is an acceptable term for Pinot Noir," instructor J.B. Severin says to more than a few surprised faces at the Wine House in West Los Angeles, where "Best of the Current Pinot Noirs" is the topic of this night's intermediate class.

Go figure: Like my classmates, I've picked up bits and pieces of wine knowledge over the years, to the point that I can eyeball a wine list somewhat confidently or do the wine chitchat thing at parties.

Although I'm past "Wine for Dummies," there is a gap: Often, labels confuse me, especially those from Europe, where wines are labeled according to where grapes are grown rather than which grapes go into them. And learning to describe characteristics in a wine — other than the most obvious berries or oak — can be baffling: Doesn't bacon belong in the frying pan?

In our Pinot Noir class, as in many wine classes, the emphasis is on tasting and describing. Ten wines are poured "blind," without our knowing which they are, and for each we are to fill out a chart noting appearance, aroma and taste. Many of us diligently swirl our wine, sniff and swallow it, but few of us can write anything more insightful than "floral" or "fruity."

It helps when Severin, an instructor and the general manager at the Wine House, explains the personality of Pinot Noir: It can be anything from spicy to plummy to redolent of night-blooming jasmine. It's less clear, though, when he says one wine has "that bright purple smell." A few of us picture Barney.

In a class called "Zinfandel: Best



CABERNET FRANC and malbe are recognized in Bordeaux as noble varietals capable of attracting consumers to wines in which one or the other is the principal grape.

of the Current Releases," Chip Hammack, a sales manager and wine buyer for the store, spends so much time detailing how Zinfandel grapes survived Prohibition that students begin to fidget. This is interesting, but they're here to taste wine.

This time, as wines again are poured blind, I search for familiar scents. I detect the jammy aroma in the 1997 Pesenti Family Reserve and a pepperiness typical of Zinfandel in a 1997 St. Francis Pagan Reserve. I am not certain, though, whether I would have been able to pick up on these had Hammack not named them at the start.

"Smells like chicken," someone jokes.

As the class continues, several of us feel our noses — or our ability to name what we smell — sharpening. There's coffee, chocolate, burnt toast. The latter scent, we

learn in a five-minute discussion, can come from the wine barrel.

The Wine House philosophy, Hammack says, is to get students to trust their palates. "It's always good to take a class, read journals and books, but the bottom line is to trust your taste, go from there and be very communicative with sommeliers and salespeople."

Classes are good selling tools for wine shops, but education is going on too. "We focus on getting a good cross-section; they're not just wines we're trying to push," says Kyle Smith, a manager at Woodland Hills Wine Co., which offers weekly classes geared toward more advanced students. Instructors might explain the difference between two wines produced from vineyards within yards of each other. In other more advanced classes, students might study how wines age through a vertical tasting, at which they

compare the same wine from different vintages.

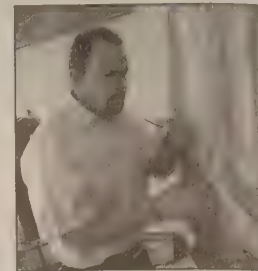
Those featuring more expensive wines, such as a class on high-end Cabernets, usually sell out immediately, Smith says; people seem less interested in mastering wine basics.

The Wine Exchange in Orange County doesn't offer formal classes but tries to educate customers through tastings grouped by topic. This fall's list includes tastings of Australian wines and 1997 Red Burgundies. A store employee pours and answers questions; the store's newsletter, hand-written by owner Steve Zanoliti, might offer further tasting notes. Zanoliti thinks tastings are a good way to learn about wine but says they can be a Catch-22.

"Many consumers, if they can't pronounce it, they don't want to

Please see WINES, Page 9

Juan S. ARCHULETA



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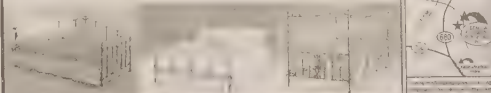
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Plenty of Zinfandels are available for Christmas

By Michael Dresser
OF BALTIMORE, SUN

Zinfandel and the traditional Christmas turkey dinner are one of those matches that are hard to understand but that work any-

way. You think turkey, white meat, maybe a Chardonnay. But it's wrong. There's a lot more to turkey than the breast, and a lot more to the turkey than the turkey.

It takes a big wine to hold its own with the turkey, and the green beans and the stuffing and the yams, which seem to come around to you at times even though you can't stand yams.

The Zinfandel does nothing better than provide big red wines fit for a feast. Forget you ever heard about white Zinfandel. Forget the slight, mildly fruity red Zinfandels that sometimes sell at cut-rate prices. A well-made red Zinfandel is a classic red wine fit for a feast.

But who among the multitude of California producers can you trust to deliver a first-rate red Zinfandel? If you'd like to keep things elementary, just remember the three Rs.

Ridge, Ravenswood and Rosenblum. They're not a law firm. They are three of the most reliable producers of world-class Zinfandel on the planet.

Each draws on exceptional vineyards from all around the state to make flavorful red wines that combine power and gracefulness. Each practices a traditional, hands-off style of winemaking that lets the wine express its character without excessive manipulation.

Ridge, founded in 1959, is California's great temple of Zin. Long before other California

winemakers realized that Zinfandel was capable of making exceptional red wines, winemaker Paul Draper was treating it with respect.

Draper developed both fine regional blended Zinfandels and specific vineyards that yielded wines of amazing concentration. He made the names Lytton Springs and Geyserville as respected among Zinfandel lovers as Margaux and Lafite are among Bordeaux connoisseurs.

Ridge Zinfandels usually incorporate small percentages of other red grape varieties because Draper believes in enhancing the structure and aging potential of the wines — and also because the vineyards happen to have some petite sirah, carignane, mourvedre and other vines mixed in with the Zinfandel.

If Draper could be called the Mozart of Zinfandel, Joel Peterson would be the Beethoven.

Peterson's Ravenswood winery, founded in 1976, produces some of the biggest, boldest and most expensive Zinfandels on the market. His two most famous Zinfandels, from the Dickerson and Old Hill vineyards, can fetch \$40 a bottle. It seems a lot to pay for Zinfandel, but the world-class quality is there.

For those of us who are not tycoons, Ravenswood produces a reliable and widely distributed Vintner's Blend Zinfandel that retails for \$12.

Rosenblum Cellars, founded in 1978, is a quieter operation but has emerged as a steady, reliable Zinfandel specialist. It draws on vineyards from Mendocino in the north to Paso Robles in the south to produce wines of exceptional purity and character.

While its single-vineyard wines can be pricey,

Rosenblum also produces a non-vintage Vintner's Cuvee whose different lots are designated by Roman numerals. The current release, XVIII, is a solid value at \$13.

A recent sampling of the three wineries' Zinfandels showed that each is playing at the top of its game. The following are all blockbusters worth considering for your Christmas feast:

—1997 Ridge Pagan Ranch Zinfandel, Sonoma Valley (\$30). This is simply a monumental wine, an explosion of concentrated blackberry fruit with a velvety texture that masks the generous alcohol level (14.6 percent). Its deep color and mix of flavors — chocolate, herbs, dark roasted coffee — suggest a vintage port without the sweetness.

—1997 Ravenswood Monte Rosso Zinfandel, Sonoma Valley (\$33). The alcohol level is a rip-snorting 15.5 percent, but the flavors of blackberry and black raspberry are so intense you can barely detect it. Hints of smoked meat, herbs and chocolate give it considerable complexity.

—1997 Ridge Annette's Reserve Zinfandel, Rhodes Vineyard, Redwood Valley (\$28). The relatively light, bright color can be deceptive. This is a very intensely flavored zin with penetrating raspberry flavor and hints of black pepper, smoked meat and chocolate.

—1997 Ridge Lytton Springs, Dry Creek Valley (\$29). The characteristic black pepper flavor of Lytton Springs grapes is seasoned with rich blackberry and black raspberry fruit. This complex, structured wine, 80 percent Zinfandel, requires a few hours' breathing, if not another year or two in the bottle.

What Treasures Await You?

You will probably feel a little tingle of anticipation as you slip into The Home Consignment Center. This fascinating store sells beautiful accessories and furniture — even they don't always know what is coming in next! Each truckload brings new surprises. One load may be model home furniture from contractor's display homes. The next load might be from a manufacturer's showroom display. And, thousands of

items come in from the area's finest homes. Best of all — these treasures are all priced as if they were used — even if they are new. What fun! Remember to take plenty of time. Often the best treasures are hidden. Oh yes, if beautiful furniture isn't enough ... The Home Consignment Center also has fine jewelry treasures on consignment! Best of all ... it's a fun, friendly place to shop.

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WINES

FROM PAGE 8

learn about it. That's the hardest thing for anybody to overcome," he says.

Wine educator Matt Kramer says students sometimes expect the wrong thing from a class. "Most people think they want to know about wine, but they really want to

know the grammar of wine: 'How do I read a label?' " says Kramer, a columnist for Wine Spectator magazine and author of several books, including "Making Sense of Wine" (William Morrow, 1989).

"But it's more important that you gain an understanding of what a Cabernet tastes like rather than decipher the Rosetta stone of the label."

"Learning about wine is not unlike learning about another lan-

guage: everyone knows how daunting that is," Kramer says. "But it's a form of communication. You're really seeking a means of communicating with the wine and having the wine communicate with you."

Kramer might teach the meaning of "finesse" by pairing two wines and asking students to explain the differences. "Until you taste a wine that doesn't have it, 'finesse' is just an empty word," he says. "It's the wines that do the teaching. If you

don't find it in the glass for yourself, it doesn't matter if you're the greatest wine teacher or writer in the world."

You might find "burnt rubber" in a glass of wine, as does Peter Brown, who teaches a six-part wine series for the University of California, Irvine Extension each quarter. But that's part of learning about wine, he says; you smell it, you describe it and you develop confidence to believe your nose.

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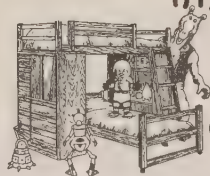
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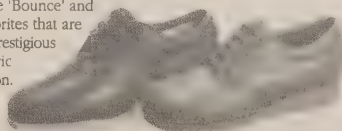
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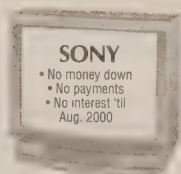
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Cook Everything by New York Times food columnist Mark Bittman. It's packed with more than 1,000 contemporary classic recipes encompassing every category of food and nearly 300 how-to illustrations.

Also available this fall is the book that started it all: Betty Crocker's Picture Cookbook. This is a reproduction of the classic book first published in 1950, filled with clever notions including twelve months of birthday cake ideas.

For the student, The King of Reference has been thoroughly revised since its introduction 10 years ago.

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For the curious there's no better guide to the answer than The Atlas of the Future edited by Ian Pearson, one of the world's best-known scientific experts on the future. In a unique format, the book forecasts what's ahead

for earth and its inhabitants through the third millennium in fields such as technology, health, warfare, climate and pollution.

For the restless corporate consultant Marti Smye shares her wisdom in Is It Too Late to Run Away and Join the Circus?

Her advice: think of yourself as the CEO of a company with one employee, you, and use management techniques to create a practical blueprint for change in your life. It might be the most important gift you could give.

For history buffs, Israel: The Historical Atlas celebrates in one volume the 50th anniversary of the state of Israel, from ancient biblical times to the continuing quest for peace on the eve of the 21st century.

Gifts "out there" for "X-Files" fans

If there are science-fiction fans on your gift-giving list this year, you must reward them with the video of "The X-Files" movie by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment. You'll be giving them more than a holiday gift-new, never-before-seen footage included with the video will answer one of the long-standing questions that fans have been puzzling over for years.

Based on the award-winning television series "The X-Files," created by Chris Carter, "The X-Files" feature film follows FBI Special Agents Mulder and Scully as they are drawn into a web of intrigue while investigating the mysterious bombing of a Dallas office building and the secret buried inside.

Set against the dramatic backdrops of Washington, D.C., the dusty fields of northern Texas, private meeting rooms of London and the frigid reaches of Antarctica, "The X-Files" is carefully designed to introduce the series' popular characters to a whole new audience. But its existing core of fans will also find much to like about the film and will be rewarded with an explanation to one of the biggest mysteries of the show's extraordinary five-season run: the disappearance of Mulder's sister.

"The X-Files" movie delves deeply into the mythology of the series-further exploring the intrinsic relationship between Mulder and Scully-and ultimately exposes the truth behind a project that threatens to irrevocably alter the future of mankind. The film stars David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson, and co-stars Academy Award winner Martin Landau, Blythe Danner and Oscar® nominee Armin Mueller-Stahl. The video also includes exclusive interviews with Anderson and series creator Carter.

For the true "X-Files" aficionado, Fox Home Entertainment has created "The X-Files Collector's Gift Set," which contains many highly collecti-

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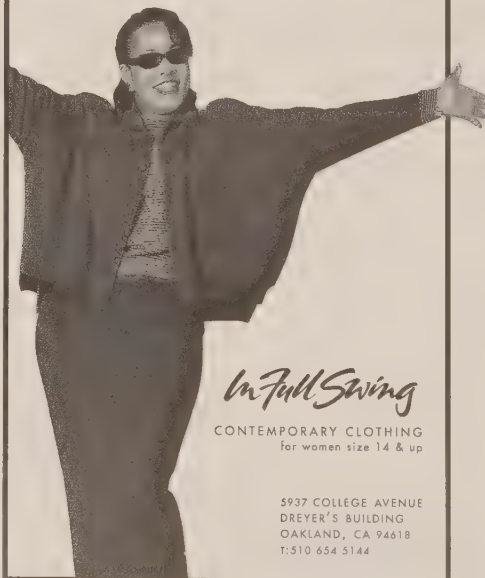
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If you are looking for the perfect gift for this holiday season why not consider a thought-provoking new video series with some fascinating thoughts on some of the 20th century's greatest thinkers and what they had to say about the next millennium.

The 16-part video series, called Potentials, Envisioning The New Millennium, features interviews with renowned authors and futurists such as: Gene Roddenberry, creator of "Star Trek," Ray Bradbury, the legendary science fiction writer, Buckminster Fuller, architect, inventor and designer, Norman Cousins, editor and author and many others.

Potentials is hosted by author Barbara Marx Hubbard whom Buckminster Fuller once referred to as "...the best informed human now alive regarding Futurism."

The series consists of four volumes, each with four episodes. Many who have viewed the series report each of the show's guests and themes blends to create a futuristic vision of human potential at its finest.

Individuals, schools and institutions that want to order the video series can find information on the award winning Web site: potentialsmedia.com or by calling 1-888-374-7764 toll-free.

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College Avenue

One-Stop Ultimate Holiday Shopping Experience

The Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire occurs on the first Sunday of every month year around. Their next upcoming show will be Sunday, Dec. 5th.

With over twenty acres of treasures and bargains and 500 booths presented by quality dealers selling Antiques and Collectibles only, this show is a One-Stop Ultimate Holiday Shopping Experience. This is the place to buy something different and exciting for that special someone in your life.

All merchandise sold is either an Antique or a Collectible (collectibles are at least twenty years or older). No reproductions or Arts & Crafts items are permitted. In addition, there will be numerous food vendors. Picnic tables will be provided for attendees

to enjoy the view while taking a break from their treasure hunting.

This month the appraisal booth will feature two special guest appraisers. Jan Wahl of Bay TVs "Talkin Pictures" and Steve Sanford Nationally Known author of Arts & Crafts Pottery books.

There is no admission charge for the Appraisal booth. The charges for appraisals are \$2.00 per item, 3 items for \$5.00. All proceeds benefit the Alameda Museum.

Show Hours and Admission are General 9 a.m. \$3.00, Early Buyer 7:30 a.m. \$5.00, VIP 6 a.m. \$10.00. For more information contact, the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire at 1000 Central Ave Alameda, (510) 522-7500, fax (510) 864-9198.



CLEOPATRA: 5 year old female (spayed) purebred Persian, front declawed. Berkeley Humane Society.

Voices for pets offers help for abused animals

By Nancy DuPont

Animal abuse can be very upsetting to hear about but when it happens, what do you do, and where do you go to get help?

Leroy Moyer, a local East Bay resident answered that question by founding an organization called "Voices for Pets" to protect the safety of animals in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

It started six years ago when Moyer's cat Eros died of an incurable disease that he felt particularly sensitive to animal suffering. "I needed to help do something to prevent needless suffering to animals," Moyer said. "Pets have a right to respect and the right to be free from fear, suffering, torture and pain."

It was at the same time I read a newspaper article about a man recently home from one year of military training that brutalized and killed a cat. His only penalty when arraigned in court was a misdemeanor, and a \$200 fine with 6 months house arrest. He had a choice of either a million dollar mansion or a fraternity house at Arizona State. His comment to the police was: "It was only a cat and I can't believe it is being treated as a criminal matter."

That motivated Leroy Moyer to go to court to see how this was handled and when he saw how lightly the treated it I saw there was a need for change. "There were a number of other concerned people there and we discussed what we could do. As result through the efforts of individuals and groups we got a petition of 3000

Happy Holidays
from the crew
at Transports

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Store Hours: Mon. through Sat., 10-6 Sat. 10-5
6022 College Avenue, Oakland 510-655-4800

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TIME FOR BED, THE SECRET OF SHADOWS UNFOLD THIS SHADOW THEATER, TURN ON THE INCLUDED FLASHLIGHT, AND SEE THE STORY OF MATT AND LILLY'S NIGHTTIME ADVENTURE. AGES 3-6 \$12.99

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Sunday,

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Jewelry • Furniture • Linens

Glassware • Fine Art • Etc.

All Items Twenty Years or Older

No Reproductions

**Located at the former
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Unlimited free parking

General Admission 9:00am \$3.00

Early Buyer 7:30am \$5.00

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★ The One - Stop Ultimate Shopping Experience ★

★ Special Announcement ★

January Appraisal Booth

Guest Appraisers

Provided By The Alameda Museum

**11 am - 2 pm: Bring in that unusual item,
unique treasure or family heirloom. Find out
what it is, where it came from and what it
might be worth.**

Appraisals \$2.00 per item • 3 items for \$5.00

No admission charge for appraisals

Proceeds benefit the Alameda Museum

(verbal appraisals not meant for insurance or sales purposes)

Directions to the Antiques Faire

From San Francisco, Marin or Sacramento take Hwy 80 to Hwy 880 South.

Exit Hwy 880 at Broadway/Alameda exit. Turn right at the first light.

Proceed down 5th Street to Broadway, enter the Webster Tube

to Alameda. Proceed through Webster Tube

and stay in right lane. Turn right at Atlantic

Avenue (first light). Proceed 3/4 miles to

main gate (Corner of Main & Atlantic).

Enter Alameda Point through gate

and follow signs to event.

From the South Bay

Take HWY 880N. Take the Broadway

Exit (Downtown Oakland). Turn right

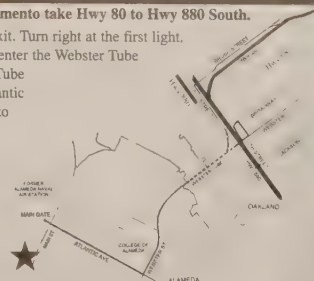
at Broadway. Turn right at 7th St.

Turn right at Webster. Enter Webster Tube to Alameda.

Proceed through Webster Tube and stay in right lane. Turn right at Atlantic Avenue (first

light). Proceed 3/4 miles to Main Gate (Corner of Main & Atlantic). Enter Alameda Point

through gate and follow signs to event.



Celebrate on Solano

Solano Avenue Shops offer Special Gift Certificates

Are you shopped out, Bubbala?

Have you found it next to impossible to find the perfect gift for someone? Well now there's hope in sight! A 'generic' Solano Avenue Gift Certificate might just solve your problem. Solano Avenue Gift Certificates may be used at more than 40 delightful businesses, getting you off of the hook for knowing exactly what to buy your friend, client, teacher or loved ones. Available in \$10 denominations at Play It Again Toys, 1170 Solano Avenue; McManus' Cafe & Pub, 1309 Solano Avenue; Bears & Baubles, 1603 Solano Avenue; Half Price Books, 1849 Solano Avenue; Solano Jewelers, 1895 Solano Avenue.

Just think of the money you'll save. Solano Avenue Gift Certificates may be used just like cash. Slip a few in an envelope, seal it with a kiss and off you go. Contact the Solano Avenue Association at (510) 527-5358 for more information.

Santa's Village

Santa will take time out of his busy schedule to have his photo taken with the children and listen to their wish lists on Thursdays & Fridays, 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon to 5 p.m., from December 3 through 23 at his special **Santa's Village** at 1228 Solano Ave. in Albany. Sponsored by the Solano Avenue Association.

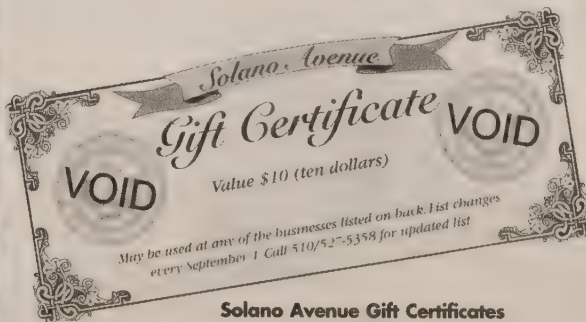
In **Santa's Village** there will also be a **Food Drive Barrel**, a **Toys for Tots Barrel** and a **Sock Tree** which becomes decorated with your donations of new socks. Please purchase a pair of socks, some canned food or an unwrapped toy for donation! After the holidays they will be donated to various charities.

Whimsical Trees by Solano Avenue merchants

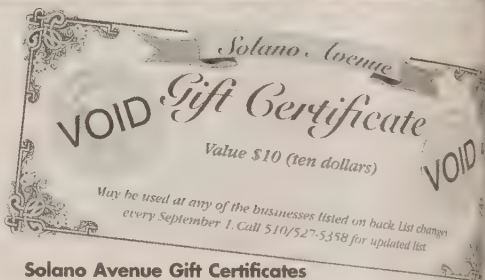
The merchants have whimsically decorated the live Christmas trees in Santa's Village. Each is adorned with items representative of a particular business: Dogs By Dianne has yummys and dog toys on the tree; Powder Box has red and green curlers; and, Investment House Realty has done up their tree with doll furniture. Bears & Baubles' tree has Teddy Bears. Come by and check them out!

Have Your Pet Photographed With Santa

The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society will bring puppies and kittens for adoption to place in the window and are up for adoption. They will hold their **Paws for Santa** fund-raiser in **Santa's Village** on Sunday, December 19 when Santa will have his photo taken with your pet. Photo fees that day will go to the Berkeley Humane Society.



Solano Avenue Gift Certificates



Solano Avenue Gift Certificates

Holiday Street Performers on Solano Avenue

Saturday, Dec. 11

12 noon to 2 p.m. By Hand.....Celtic Harpist - Trish NiGabhain
12 noon to 2 p.m. Strolling.....Tom Collins - A Dickensian Character

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Andronico's.....BHS Pep Band
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Cafe Raj.....Jazz Duo

Sunday, Dec. 12

12 noon to 2 p.m. Berkeley Bakery ..Albany Adult School Big Band & Chorus

12 noon to 2 p.m. Albany Art Gallery AHS Music Performance Club
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Strolling.....Canyon Stiltwalkers
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Ideas 4 Elements ..Jazz Duo
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Tibetan Gift Shop. AHS Music Performance Club
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.Pegasus BooksRoyal Hawaiian Ukulele Band

Saturday, Dec. 18

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.Play It Again Toys Santa's Village
12 noon to 2 p.m. Half Price Books ..Reverend Rabia
12 noon to 2 p.m. Strolling.....Tom Collins - A Dickensian Character
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Andronico's'Frog Logs Cajun Holiday Music
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Grace Baking.....Albany Jazz Chorus
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Strolling.....Sun Choir

Sunday, Dec. 19

12 noon to 2 p.m. Berkeley Bakery ..Albany Adult School Big Band & Chorus
12 noon to 2 p.m. No Sweat.....Berkeley Community Chamber Chorus
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Albany Art Gallery Albany Jazz Chorus
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.Strolling.....Canyon Stiltwalkers
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.By Hand.....Toy Soldier
.....to Starbucks

Celebrate on Solano



Have your pet's picture taken with Santa!

Proceeds go to the:
Berkeley Animal Shelter
 • \$10 Poloroid
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 12-4 pm Sat. Dec. 18th



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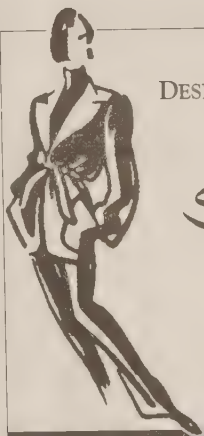
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... plus seasonal foods for your table

including chestnuts, wild rice, and stollen. Piedmont Grocery has all of the great ingredients for your holiday preparations such as saffron, truffles, caviar and fruit cake mix. You will also find the East Bay's largest selection for spirits and wines for cooking. All this plus a knowledgeable staff to help you with your selection!

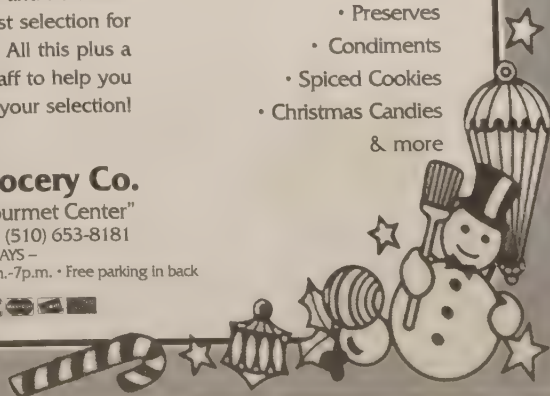
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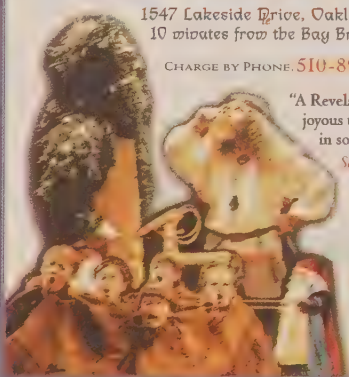
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Wednesday, Dec. 22, 11am, Community Morning Matinee
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Holiday Kickoff

Wed., Dec. 1, 11:30-1pm

Live Music, Father Christmas, Roasted
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Hanukkah Celebration

Wed., Dec. 1, 11am-1pm

Kwanzaa Celebration

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Salvation Army Celebrity Ball Hanging

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Honoring Carriers, Piano in
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Dec. 1-17, Wed. & Fri., 11am-3pm

For more information, call

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5:30-9:00 p.m. Every Night
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\$5.00 adults ages 15 and above
\$3.00 children ages 2-14
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For more information call
The Oakland Zoo **510.632.9525**

Special Holiday

Public Skating Schedule

Admission cost:
Adult - \$6.00 • Youth - \$5.00
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12/23.....Noon - 5 pm & 6-9 pm
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12/26.....1-5 pm & 6-9 pm
12/27.....Noon - 5 pm
12/28.....Noon - 5 pm & 6-9 pm
12/29.....Noon - 5 pm
12/30.....Noon - 5 pm & 6-9 pm
12/31.....Noon - 5 pm
01/01.....Noon - 5 pm & 7-10 pm
01/02.....1-5 pm & 6-9 pm

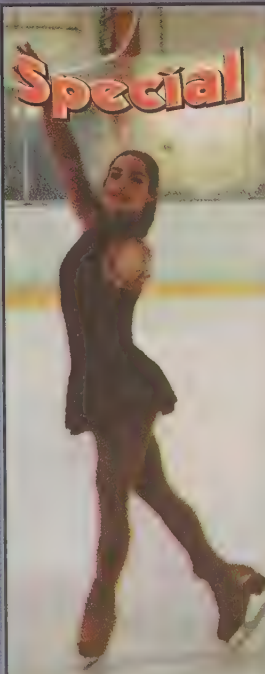
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SAT., DEC. 18 at 6:45 pm

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A festive 70' Holiday tree welcomes you to one of the prettiest places to visit during the holidays. Dine in one of our 15 restaurants. Fulfill your list from a wide selection of shops and boutiques. Come learn how solar panels are providing partial power for this year's tree thanks to Green Mountain.com and Powerlight. Take in a current cinematic blockbuster at the Jack London Cinema. Spoil yourself with an exquisite spa and salon visit at Ulee. Check out the latest blockbuster at the Jack London Cinema.

Jack London Square, holiday magic begins at the water's edge. One hour validated parking. Located at the foot of Broadway, Oakland.
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Nine magical event dates await

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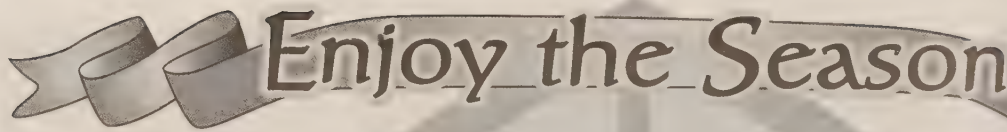
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Enjoy the Season

Disturbing The Peace

By Randall Roth

The Christ of Christmas is a contradiction. At his birth the angels announced, "Peace on earth, good will to men." But when Jesus came he disturbed the peace. He confronted complacency, challenged the status quo. He bristled against devilish divisions -- in society, yes, but especially in the temple. "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples," he thundered with unflinching authority.

The carpenter's son looked powerbrokers in the eye and, without blinking, called them losers. But those who would lose their life for the King and his kingdom would discover what it is to really live. Jesus redefined greatness. He said, and modeled, that the greatest are those who serve. He showed who's the greatest in the eyes of God: children and strangers, the overlooked and ignored, the poor in spirit and humble of heart.

Jesus' ultimate act of greatness was that "he did come for to die, for poor ornery creatures like you and like I." Christmas is about the Son of God absorbing all the pain, all the abuse, all the sin of humanity so that we might be healed and transformed into his likeness. So that we might live like the "little ones" who will inherit his kingdom. May the living Christ of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with hope.

*Randall Roth is Senior Pastor of the First Covenant Church, 4000 Redwood Road, Oakland, (510) 531-1599
www.oaklandcovenant.org*



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Piedmont Avenue

Healthy gifts under \$30

No more ties, socks or goofy gifts. This holiday season, why not give something with lasting impact-the gift of good health?

The best gifts are the most practical, and beauty and health products are always keepers. Here are some suggestions-all of which come in under \$30 and can be found on the Internet-to make holiday shopping easier on your mental health:

★ **Spa Botanika Basket:** Take three products from the Garden Botanika Spa Botanika line-Body Firming Moisturizer, Pumice Body Polisher and Revitalizing Body Wash-and wrap them up in an inexpensive basket with some cellophane and a bow.

★ **Aroma Diffuser Set:** These oils-Meditation, Clear Mind and Celebration-dropped into the clay diffuser will help encourage a new outlook on life.

★ **Hot-R-Cold Cervical Pillow:** The holidays can really be a pain in the neck. This soothing pillow comes with a pack that can be made hot or cold for specified relief.

★ **Rembrandt Mini-Tote:** Give the gift of a beautiful smile by putting low-abrasion Rembrandt Whitening Toothpaste, alcohol-free Rembrandt Dazzling Fresh Mouthrinse and Rembrandt Dazzling Breathdrops in a small, cool mesh bag that you can find at any beauty supply store. Add a colorful toothbrush for instant freshness any time of day.

★ **Yixing Yin Yan Teapot:** Give someone a break with a beautiful Chinese teapot that can be filled with a vibrant black or calming herbal tea.

★ **Tuffbags Bottle Holder:** Remind someone how important water is to good health with this super-tough bottle holder that can be clipped onto a belt or slung over a shoulder. It includes an ice bag for chilly refreshment anytime.



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Friday in December

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Mon.-Sat. 10-7 ★ Open 'til 9 every Friday in December



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We've got gifts galore for the Holidays ... fine pens, Italian leather journals, beautiful notecards, Filofax and Oberon organizers, art kits, and lots of stocking stuffers! And we have expanded holiday hours in December, 12 noon to 4 on Sundays!

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Piedmont Avenue

Spend quality time with family during the holidays

With all the day-to-day hustle and bustle, it sometimes seems impossible for parents and kids to get beyond the necessary conversations of "Did you brush your teeth?" and, "Is your homework done?"

Famed toy experts Joanne and Stephanie Oppenheim, both busy parents themselves, understand the challenges and the importance of finding playtime with children. As a result, they've developed a "Top 10" list of toys to help busy moms and dads bond with their kids.

The Oppenheims, co-founders of the independent research organization The Oppenheim Toy Portfolio, believe that finding playful ways to connect with your kids is more than just fun.

"After a long day at school and work, it's nice for parents and children to have a way to unwind," says Stephanie Oppenheim. "A board game that's quick and easy or a craft project creates great opportunities to play and learn together."

Top 10 Together List

The Oppenheims' top 10 toy picks to help moms and dads bond with their children are:

1. Goodnight Moon Game (Briarpatch)-Scenes from this classic book are now used for a board game that's a great choice for developing language and visual skills. Children take turns picking and matching cards with pictures on their lotto-style playing boards. For children ages 2 1/2 to 6.

2. Feltkids Interactive Books (Learning Curve)-Great books with movable felt figures for expanding your child's language and original storytelling skills.

3. Geosafari Talking Globe Jr. (Educational Insights)-Parents can help kids ages seven and up learn the

names of states, capitals, countries and other details with this easy-to-read, interactive globe.

4. National Geographic: My World Quilt (Curiosity Kit)-Kids can create their own quilt by drawing pictures onto preprinted panels with headings such as "This is my family." The panels are then ironed and sewn together. For children ages seven and up (with adult supervision).

5. Handpainted Piggy Bank (Creativity for Kids)-A chubby little white piggy bank comes ready

to paint with spots, hearts, or flowers. Dry for 24 hours then bake in a regular oven for a permanent finish. Penny pinchers will love this one. The bank also has a removable plug for emptying. Adult supervision with baking. For children ages seven and up.

6. Lego Mindstorms (Lego)-This interactive toy integrates computers, robotics and construction sets allowing kids to build their own programmable robots. This toy is one of the most significant breakthroughs in children's computing-it's truly a 21st century plaything. For children ages eleven and up.

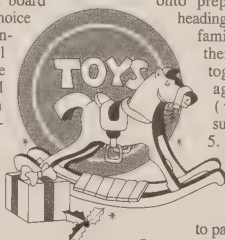
7. Rokenbok Expandable RC Building System (Rokenbok)-An open-ended system for multiple players that features remote control trucks that load and unload marbles from a motorized conveyor belt, and up and down ramps. For children ages six and up.

8. SuperZoom Balls (Curiosity Kits)-Family science projects just got better with crystals that change into solid, bounceable materials in just three minutes when water is added. For children ages six and up.

9. Statue Of Liberty Puzzle (Frank Schaffer)-You'll be impressed with the gigantic 20" X 44" tall illustration of Lady Liberty that grows out of this 100-piece giant floor puzzle. Not simple, but a fun project for the entire family. For children ages six and up.

10. Kuba (Patch Products)-A handsome and challenging marble game. The object is to capture seven of the red marbles by pushing them off of the board with the black or white marbles. For children ages ten and up.

To make life even easier for busy parents this holiday shopping season, the Oppenheims have once again partnered with Energizer® brand batteries to provide a wealth of helpful holiday hints, including:



★ A Free Toys With Play Power Brochure: contains everything from the hottest toys for 1999 to gifts for under \$20 to the best battery-operated toys. The brochure includes highlights from the Oppenheim's annual book, Oppenheim Toy Portfolio 1999 Edition: The Best Toys, Books, Videos, Music And Software For Kids. To order a free copy of the brochure, write to: Toys with Play Power, 15 Nantucket Lane, St. Louis, MO 63132.

★ A Free Holiday Toy Guide: contains recommendations on the top toys. ★ A Chance To Win Shopping Spree: Win Advice From The Oppenheim 100th caller to the chance to win a \$500 gift with personal advice from Oppenheim's.

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Montclair Village

Montclair woman wins 1999 Pet Sitter of the Year Award

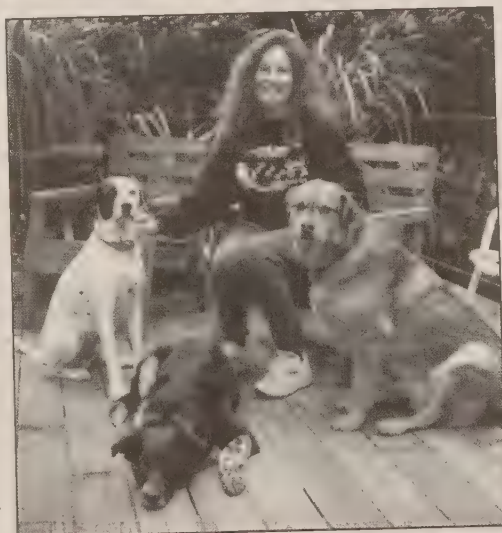
by DuPont

Heidi Kistler, owner of the Pawtively Pampered Pet in Oakland, has been selected as the 1999 Pet Sitter of the Year. This national award is considered to be the highest recognition of pet care providers in the pet sitting industry.

Heidi is a million steps beyond the average pet sitter," client Deborah Breslin raves. "Her dedication, warmth, commitment and generosity are an ideal example for all other pet sitters."

Heidi, who started her business just two years ago will receive a lifetime membership to PSI and she is scheduled for free registration and round up to the 1999 Quest for Excellence Convention held in New Orleans in September, 1999. She also received \$500 from The IAMS Company who has been a sponsor of the Pet Sitter of the Year since 1995.

Heidi graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara in 1995 with a B.A. in Anthropology. She knew she wanted to start her own business but decided on a vacation. The idea of pet sitting was conceived during a brainstorming session with a friend. The Pawtively Pampered Pet was born on March 1, 1997. She quickly caring for pets of family and friends and quickly built her business through word of mouth references. Her first year in business she worked 365 days without a day off! The serv-



Heidi Kistler and her friends, Nalu, Buster and Smokey.

ices she offers include daily drop-bys, overnights and mid day dog walks.

Heidi has assisted in development of The East Bay Pet Sitter's Network, a group of local pet sitters who meet monthly. She is an avid supporter of the Friends of Oakdale Shelter. She says, "I am working to develop community awareness because I believe F.O.T.O.S. is helping our beloved animal friends have a better life." Heidi is trained in pet first aid and is currently studying vari-

ous alternative health practices for animals, such as touch therapy.

Heidi resides in the Montclair District of the Oakland Hills with her three male dogs, Nalu, Buster and Smokey, and her three female cats, Thistle, Mopsey and Spike. In what little free time she has, she likes to go hiking on the coast with her boyfriend, Ryan, and enjoys cross-country skiing in the mountains of Northern California.

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Montclair Village

Sensational Stocking Stuffers

Stocking stuffers are usually the last item on your Christmas list. Sometimes it may be difficult to find the right surprises so we put in the same old gifts as last year. You can make this year special with these great ideas for sensational stocking stuffers.

Men usually get socks, underwear and cologne. These gifts are nice, but rarely a big hit. Spice up his stocking this year with some of these great ideas.

- ★ Silky underwear
- ★ Wool argyles or cashmere socks
- ★ Tickets for a sports event
- ★ Tennis balls or golf balls
- ★ Water bottle, tire pump or cycling gloves for the cyclist
- ★ Fishing lures, line and leaders
- ★ Magazine subscription
- ★ Suspenders

The list for great gifts for women is endless. You're sure to make her smile Christmas morning with these unique goodies.

- ★ Silky or lacy underwear
- ★ Pantyhose with a design
- ★ Imported soaps, powders or scented oils

- ★ A sachet of potpourri
- ★ Scented candles
- ★ A loofa
- ★ Magazine subscription
- ★ Jewelry

It's always fun for children to get candy, stuffed animals, match box cars and windup toys, but here are some other ideas for this year's stockings.

- ★ Savings Bond
- ★ Christmas ornament, with this year's date printed on it
- ★ Funky shoelaces
- ★ Art supplies and craft items
- ★ Movie passes
- ★ A favorite video or music cassette

What To Put In Fido's Stocking

You've found the perfect gift for that special someone. You searched doggedly, and it's the cat's meow—that's right, it's a gift for your pet.

★ You don't want to give dogs or cats any toys they can rip apart. They can swallow a piece and either choke on it or have trouble passing it. In some cases, surgery is needed to remove an object. As a result, hard

toys, such as a plastic bone for a dog, are better than soft rubber toys.

★ Keep in mind the size and strength of the animal. A Rottweiler has more jaw power than a Yorkie, and can rip a toy more easily. Small balls, even if they're hard and can't be ripped, can sometimes slip down a large animal's throat.

★ Remove the noise-making piece

from any squeaky toys. The 'squeaker' is quite small and it is easy to ingest if the toy breaks apart.

★ The toys you buy at the pet store are non-toxic. But if you're using a homemade toy that isn't intended for pet play, make sure it's constructed of non-hazardous material.

★ The poinsettia plant is very dangerous to cats and some small breeds of dogs. Its milky substance is toxic and can be fatal if ingested. Keep the plant out of reach of pets.

★ Though not a toy, anti-freeze is

also extremely toxic. Keep containers where a pet could not reach them.

★ While you can give your pet a treat at the dinner table, don't get into the habit of human food. They may digest it well, and could learn with their behavior that you want to give them human biscuits. After all, you to end up with, as the sick puppy.

Fantastic Gifts for Every Holiday

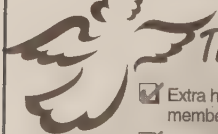


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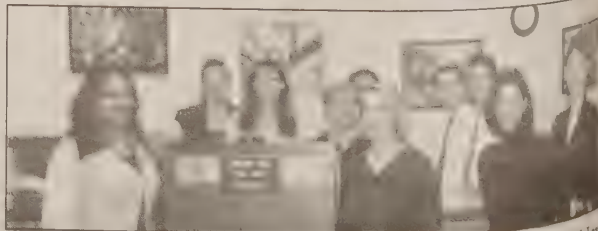
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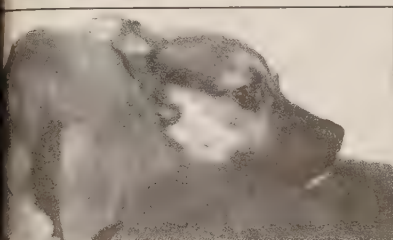


Celebrating its 50th year in the Montclair district, California Savings & Loan continues its commitment to provide only the finest in personal banking. The knowledgeable and friendly staff is headed by Linda Foss, an expert in the banking and financial services industry for over 25 years. The employees of California Savings and Loan have proved to be true friends of the Montclair Business Association, the Lion's Club, and the Junior Achievement program at Montclair Elementary School.

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Voices for pets offers help for abused animals

continued from pg. 10

signatures in a two-week period before sentencing. We handed it to a District Attorney who put them in a briefcase and nothing was done. We learned to give these petitions directly to the Judge."

We sent copies of the petition and documentation to the military school and the alumni voted to kick him out and also sent to Arizona State and campus newspaper and he was also booted out of the fraternity. This was the beginning.

There was one case after another until we learned how to change the process. We have made some mistakes and learned and become more effective.

"We have become the voice of those who cannot seek justice for themselves and we are being heard. When someone uses violence against a defenseless victim, it is everybody's business. People who do this to animals could do this to children.

As director of Voices for Pets, Moyer tries to raise awareness of animal cruelty cases. He collects signatures petitioning judges to enforce stricter punishment against animal abusers. He answers calls on pet rescues and pet safety. We want to encourage responsible pet ownership, housing and care.

Moyer who lived in a home in the Berkeley foothills took early retirement to devote all his time and resources to Voices for Pets.

I have become more committed the more I see the need said the 60 year old, but I may have to return to work just to keep up with these expenses.

For information on Voices for Pets, Call Leroy Moyer, Director at (925) 685-5388.

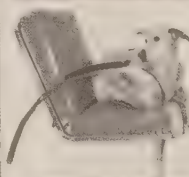


All these wonderful animals can be adopted at the following locations:
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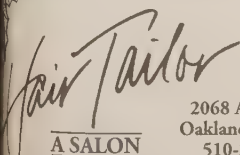
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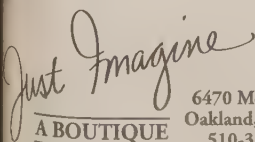
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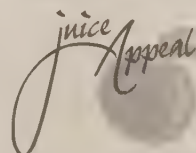
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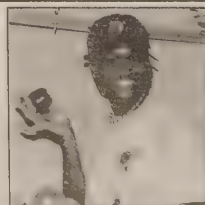
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Maximizing the "Cookie Experience" all year long

Americans nibble, munch and devour more than 2 billion cookies a year—or 300 cookies per person annually, according to the Kansas Wheat Commission. Whether it's a special occasion or any occasion, there's no time like the present to shower friends and family with specially prepared cookies.

Janet Bailey, food expert and author of *Keeping Food Fresh: How To Choose And Store Everything You Eat* suggests making large batches of cookie dough ahead of time and freezing portions in plastic zipper bags. Then when special occasions pop up, you can thaw the dough and bake your cookies in

minutes with no fuss.

"Bags are perfect for freezing and thawing cookie dough, and with these bags, you can actually hear the bags zip close to know food freshness is securely locked in," Bailey said. "Once the bag is tightly sealed, be sure to complete the label with the date and contents—cookie dough may be kept in the freezer at 0 degrees Fahrenheit for up to 12 months."

Other tips for delicious, picture-perfect cookies include:

★ To keep baked cookies fresh, store cookies in a tightly sealed plastic bag at room temperature for one week, or store in a bag in the freezer at 0 degrees for nine to 12 months.

★ Fill bags with frosting or icing and squeeze to a bottom corner of the bag. Gently snip off a small piece of the corner and squeeze downward to decorate your favorite cookies, cakes or brownies.

★ For a one-step process without the mess, fill bags with nuts and lightly crush for dessert toppings.

★ Cookies make fun, visual table toppers, no matter what the occasion. Consider themed cookies decorated for: Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year's Day, Super Bowl/Football Parties, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Birthday Parties.

★ Bags are also great for storing non-food items, such as cookie cutters or bows and ribbons.

Butter Shortbread Cookies

Makes 1 dozen large shortbread bars or three dozen medium cookies

- 3 cups (6 sticks) butter, softened
- 21/4 cups powdered sugar
- 6 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 11/2 teaspoons lemon extract

Beat butter and powdered sugar in large bowl until light and fluffy. Mix in flour and salt; mix vanilla and lemon extract. Refrigerate dough until very firm, about four hours. Divide the dough into three equal parts. Roll 1/3 of the dough on well floured surface into three equal rectangular shapes (12 X 6 inches). Score dough with sharp

knife crosswise and lengthwise in halves to make four rectangles, or cut into shapes with three inch cookie cutter. Place dough on greased cookie sheet

and refrigerate. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until beginning to brown. Cool on wire rack. Cut into 6 X 3 rectangles with sharp knife while still warm.



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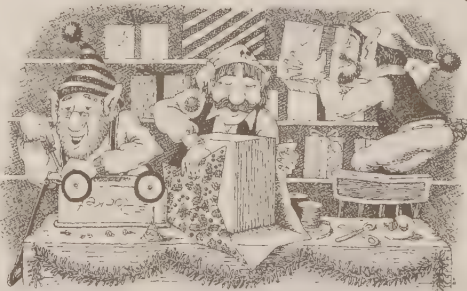
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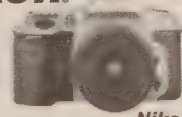


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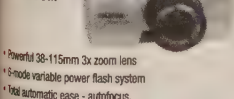
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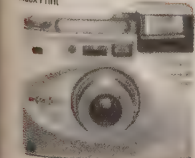
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OLYMPUS Focus On Life

Montclair Village

Trend and floral consultant previews hottest colors

A color can define an era. Remember Kingfisher blue in the 50's? Avocado green in the 70's? Nancy Reagan red in the 80's?

"Color trends are manifested in many ways in home interiors, gifts and with floral arrangements where consumers have the freedom to experiment with emerging color trends affordably," says Denise Lee, trend consultant for the Society of American Florists (SAF).

Instead of one signal color for this era, Lee highlights three trends in the marketplace shaping floral designs for the new millennium:

Bold and Bright

An increasingly diverse population includes outdoorsy, nightlife-loving Gen X-ers and baby boomers refusing to mellow.

This trend manifests itself in color variety, exotic design and brighter hues. Rich reds, intense violets and bright yellows are hot in floral arrangements with a stronger, vivid color palette. "In a spring arrangement, for example," says Lee, "you may see a switch from lavender to deep purple or royal blue, from pale to lemon yellow, and from light pink and peach to fuchsia and coral."

Ultra-Pastels

On the opposite side of the spectrum, many Americans are shifting toward balance and simplicity.

"Consumers are lightening up their

environments with neutrals, sheer colors and super-light pastels," says Lee. Florists complement this look by using one color of flower in a vase—several stems of white iris or butter yellow tulips, for example. Another technique is to use a cluster of delicate vases, each holding a single stem of a soft-colored flower.

Techno-Colors

Hi-tech vibes inspire new color schemes, too. Today's technology enables people to see more of the approximately six million colors detectable by the human eye.

Technology also helps flower growers select features they wish to enhance by cultivating new varieties to fill consumers' demand for diversity.

"These new varieties of flowers are so striking that they're instant style-setters," says Lee. She suggests sending two-toned roses or mini carnations to show someone a different side of their favorite flower.

Becoming a Color Connoisseur

Like fashion and interior designers, professional florists have their finger on the pulse of today's newest hues, using color trend analysis to artistically create arrangements for maximum visual impact. "Your florist can help you expand your color palette," says Lee. "With just a little advice and guidance, you too can become a connoisseur of color."

New way to pamper everyone on your gift list

Each year, you try to find gifts that are perfectly suited to everyone on your list. And when you can't find that perfect something, you switch gears and decide on a generic gift certificate from the company of your choice. You've crossed another name off your list, but may not have made the desired impression on your loved one, friend or coworker.

But what if your special someone had more of a choice about that certificate, and could even decide where to use it? Now there's a way to buy a gift certificate that is neither generic nor impersonal.

You can give the precious gift of relaxation in the form of a spa gift certificate. One innovative company we found offers a gift certificate that is good at over 700 day spas and salons across the country.

The beauty of it is, you don't have to decide whether it will be for a massage, herbal wrap, manicure or other service. The recipient chooses exactly what spa treatment they want to indulge in and even where it will be done. A directory of participating day spas comes with the certificate.

"Most people would love a day at a spa, but are shy about treating themselves," says Joyce Greenbaum, president and founder of 1-888-SPAWISH.

"These certificates let you treat someone to a spa visit without struggling over which spa or services they would prefer. With Spa Wish certificates, the recipient gets all the choice."

It's as simple as ordering flowers—only more fun and original—and it's a gift that the recipient won't forget. All it takes is a phone call or a visit to the Internet. The only decision necessary is the amount of the certificate.

For an extra special treat, the gift certificate can be presented inside a silver picture frame with scented bath crystals and relaxation music. Spa Wish gift certificates are a convenient way to avoid lines at the mall, and a truly personalized gift for everyone on your gift list, whether they live in your house or across the country. To order a spa gift certificate, call 1-888-SPA-WISH (1-888-772-9474) or visit the Web site www.spawish.com.

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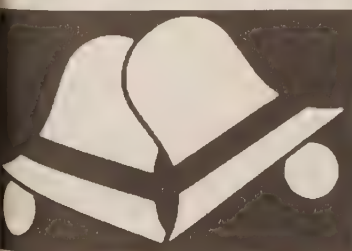
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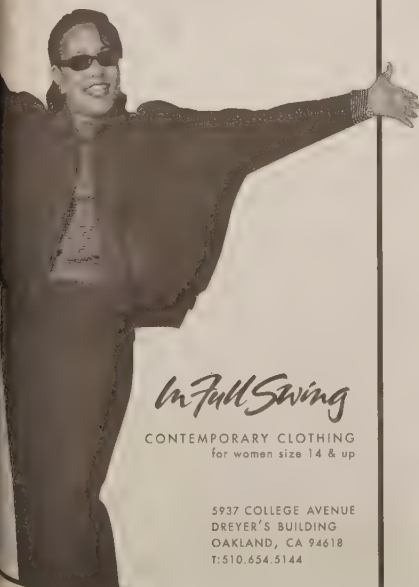
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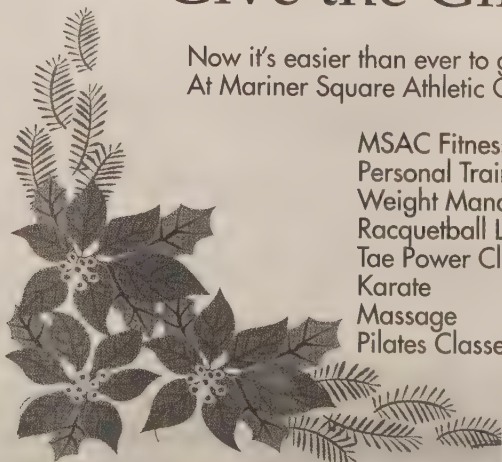
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Enjoy the Season

A time of caring for the animals

By Nancy DuPont

For a religion whose Savior was born in a stable, it goes without saying He looks out for the animals. Not one sparrow that falls to the ground is forgotten before God. (Luke 12:6; Matthew 10:29).

Caring for our pets include a safe warm place to sleep, plenty of food and water and very important—contact with their human families.

There are pets that are forced to live outside alone and away from their human pack. A dog tied to a back porch or fence lying lonely on a pad of bare, packed dirt. The water bowl, if there is one, is empty or just out of reach. Abandoned, but chained up, backyard dogs cannot move to comfort, shelter or companionship. In winter, they shiver, in summer, they languish; year round, they suffer.

The most well meaning people do not spend significant time with their animal companions. Under the best of circumstances, the backyard dog gets a bowl of food and water, a pat on the head and maybe a few minutes of contact with another living being each day.

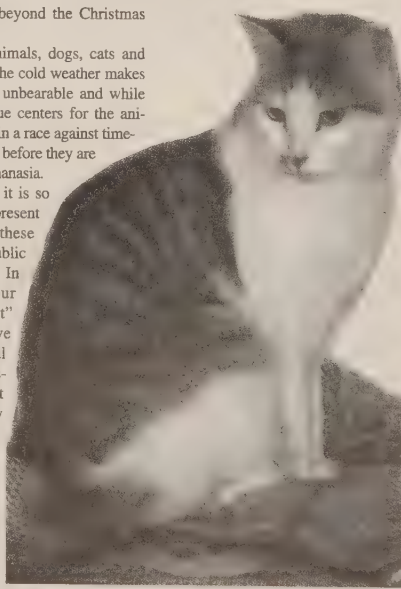
Dogs can offer people steadfast devotion, abiding love and joyful companionship. People who accept these offerings and take the time to return them in kind experience a joy

that lasts far beyond the Christmas season.

For most animals, dogs, cats and other critters, the cold weather makes living outside unbearable and while there are rescue centers for the animals, they are in a race against time—to be adopted before they are faced with euthanasia.

This is why it is so important to present as many of these pets to the public for adoption. In producing our "Adopt a Pet" page we have had wonderful results and discovered that there are many caring individuals in our communities that volunteer much of their time to placing animals into loving homes.

One of these individuals is Christina Griffin who volunteers at "Home at Last" a Berkeley based animal rescue group that primarily rescues dogs and cats that are slated to be euthanized at the Berkeley Animal Control.



Bob, a handsome and personable gold and white shorthaired cat, awaits adoption at the Home at Last Rescue Center. Bob can be reached at (510) 501-7021.

They need more foster homes and other volunteers so that they can continue to save these animals lives. For more information or for upcoming mobile adoptions, call (510) 501-7021.

Our next Adopt a Pet page will be

published the week of December 10th. If you are interested in adopting a pet in this issue, call Hills Newspapers at 4033

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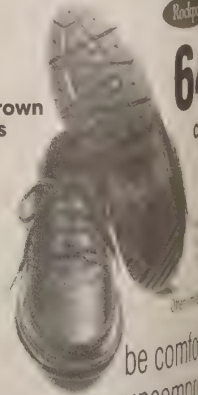
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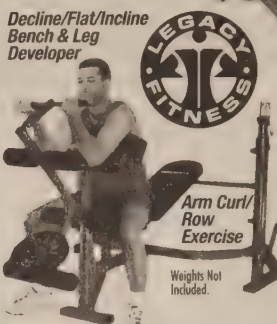
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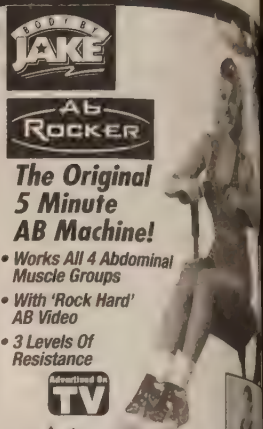
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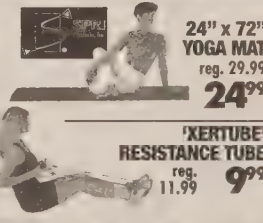
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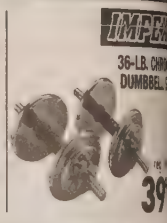
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reg. 39.99

39⁹⁹



**KATHY
IRELAND**

- HIGH INTENSITY
LOW IMPACT
- A GREAT WORKOUT
TO DO AT HOME
- 'STEP'
WITH VIDEO

reg. 29.99

26⁹⁹



**'O RING'
ANKLE/WRIST
WEIGHTS**

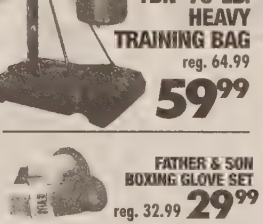
reg. 11.99

9⁹⁹

3-LB. 'O RING' ANKLE/
WRIST
WEIGHTS

reg. 13.99

10⁹⁹



TUF-WEAR

**'TBN' 70-LB.
HEAVY
TRAINING BAG**

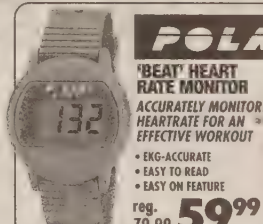
reg. 64.99

59⁹⁹

**FATHER & SON
BOXING GLOVE SET**

reg. 32.99

29⁹⁹



POLAR

**'BEAT' HEART
RATE MONITOR**

ACCURATELY MONITORS
HEARTRATE FOR AN
EFFECTIVE WORKOUT

- EKG-ACCURATE
- EASY TO READ
- EASY ON FEATURE

reg. 79.99

59⁹⁹



PACER

**'PACER' HEART
RATE MONITOR**

ACCURATELY MONITORS
HEARTRATE FOR AN
EFFECTIVE WORKOUT

- EKG-ACCURATE
- EASY TO READ
- EASY ON FEATURE

reg. 129.99

129⁹⁹



IMPEY

**DUMBBELL
BARS**

Big 5
Sale Price

- ACCOMMODATES
ALL STANDARD
1" HOLE PLATES
- RUBBER GRIPS
FOR COMFORT

17⁹⁹



Body Shaping

**'FITNESS BALL'
WITH
INSTRUCTIONAL
VIDEO**

reg. 29.99

24⁹⁹



Mueller

**'LIFELINE POWER'
JUMP ROPE**

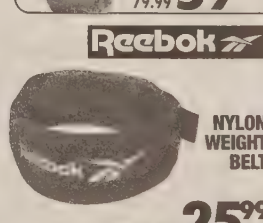
reg. 14.99

11⁹⁹

**'CHO PAT'
KNEE SUPPORT**

reg. 15.99

13⁹⁹



Reebok

**NYLON
WEIGHT
BELT**

reg. 29.99

25⁹⁹



Saracen

**BUFFALO LEATHER
P.R. WEIGHT BELT**

reg. 79.99

79⁹⁹

**P.R. WEIGHT BELT
WITH GEL PADDING**

reg. 19.99

19⁹⁹

**NATURE
SOLE**

SKECHERS

asics

Wilson



FULL-GRAIN
LEATHER UPPER
SOLE UNIT
MADE IN ITALY

**'TRINIDAD'
CASUAL**

after sale 69.99

39⁹⁹

MEN'S

SAVE \$30



**'NORFOLK'
CASUAL**

- RICH NUBUCK UPPER
- MEN'S

after sale 59.99

34⁹⁹

SAVE \$25



**'TRENT'
CASUAL**

- FULL-GRAIN LEATHER UPPER
- MEN'S

reg. 59.99

34⁹⁹

SAVE \$25



**'NEMESIS'
SKATE SHOES**

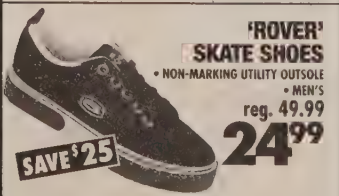
reg. 49.99

24⁹⁹

MEN'S

SAVE \$25

• DOUBLE STITCHED OUTSOLE



**'ROVER'
SKATE SHOES**

- NON-MARKING UTILITY OUTSOLE
- MEN'S

reg. 49.99

24⁹⁹

SAVE \$25



**'REBELS-REVOLT'
CASUAL**

- GENUINE LEATHER UPPER
- MEN'S

reg. 49.99

29⁹⁹

SAVE \$20



COMPRESSION
MOVABLE MIDSOLE
PROVIDES LIGHTWEIGHT
CUSHIONING

**'PURSUIT'
RUNNING**

reg. 59.99

29⁹⁹

MEN'S OR
WOMEN'S

SAVE \$30

• LEATHER & MESH UPPER



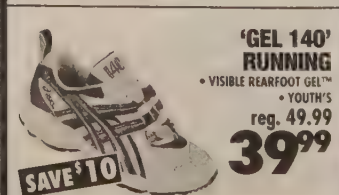
**'GEL CENTURION'
RUNNING**

- REARFOOT GEL™ SYSTEM
- MEN'S OR WOMEN'S

reg. 64.99

34⁹⁹

SAVE \$30



**'GEL 140'
RUNNING**

- VISIBLE REARFOOT GEL™
- YOUTH'S

reg. 49.99

39⁹⁹

SAVE \$10



LEATHER UPPER
FOR DURABILITY

**'COURT
CASUAL'**

reg. 49.99

24⁹⁹

SAVE \$25



**'TOUR CLASSIC'
CASUAL**

- FULL-GRAIN LEATHER
- MEN'S

reg. 59.99

39⁹⁹

SAVE \$25

BIG 5 Skate Sale Specials!

Reinforced Composite Frame!



'A3' MEN'S OR WOMEN'S RECREATIONAL SKATES

- ITALIAN DESIGN 2-PIECE MOLDED BOOT WITH 3-BUCKLE CLOSURE
- REINFORCED COMPOSITE FRAME
- CUSTOM CUFF FLEX ADJUSTMENT
- HEEL RETENTION SYSTEM

SAVE \$20 reg. 99.99 **79.99**

BLADERUNNER 0000 BY ROLLERBLADE



Includes Knee Pads, Wrist Guards & Carry Bag!

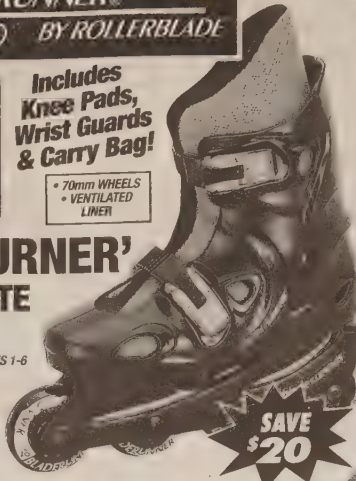
- 70mm WHEELS
- VENTILATED LINER

'AFTER BURNER' YOUTH'S SKATE COMBO

reg. 59.99

39.99 PKG. PRICE

• SIZES 1-6



SAVE \$20

Abec 3 TwinCam Bearings With Aluminum Spacers!



'VELOCITY 99' MEN'S OR WOMEN'S RECREATIONAL SKATES

- ANATOMICAL COMFORT FIT
- MEN'S & WOMEN'S SPECIFIC MODELS
- RESPONSE SYSTEM INTEGRATED FRAME
- INSTEP POWER STRAP

SAVE \$25

reg. 174.99 **149.99**



'TRITON' YOUTH'S RECREATIONAL

- 3-BUCKLE CLOSURE

reg. 49.99

39.99



ADULT'S 'TRITON' OR SOFT 'OMEGA' IN-LINE

YOUR CHOICE reg. 69.99

49.99



'X-CITE' WOMEN'S FITNESS

- SOFT SKATE TECHNOLOGY
- ABEC 5 BEARINGS

reg. 199.99

99.99

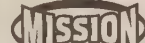


'X-ACT' MEN'S FITNESS

- LIMITED SIZES
- SOFT SKATE TECHNOLOGY

reg. 199.99

99.99



'PROTO V' HILO HOCKEY

- ACCELERATOR CHASSIS

reg. 199.99

129.99



'AIR ZOOM THRUST' HOCKEY

- FOREFOOT ZOOM AIR UNIT

reg. 349.99

129.99



'MERLIN 99' YOUTH'S SOFT

- LOW PROFILE FRAME FOR MAXIMUM STABILITY

reg. 99.99

79.99



'125' AGGRESSIVE

- DURABLE SOUL-POD FOR LOCKED-ON GRINDS

Big 5 Low Price

199.99



'RINKMASTER' WOMEN'S QUAD

- TRADITIONAL STYLING

reg. 29.99

24.99



'HONESTY' AGGRESSIVE

- LIGHTWEIGHT 'V-TECH' FRAME

reg. 159.99

69.99



'QUAD' ADULT'S ROLLER SKATES

- TRADITIONAL 4-WHEEL DESIGN

reg. 39.99

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'CAMANO' RECREATIONAL

- SOFT BOOT TECHNOLOGY

Big 5 Low Price

149.99



ABEC 3 16-PACK BEARINGS

reg. 24.99

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BSB 16-PACK BEARINGS

reg. 34.99

29.99



KNEE PADS OR ELBOW PADS

reg. 7.99

6.99



• YOUTH'S

• ADULT'S

'ULTRA LAM' HOCKEY STICK

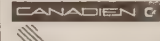
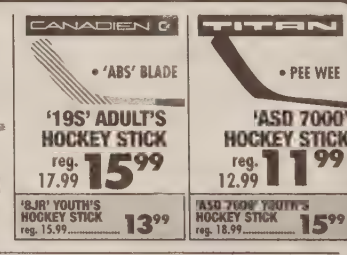
reg. 15.99

14.99

'ULTRA LAM' HOCKEY STICK

after sale 21.99

16.99

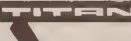
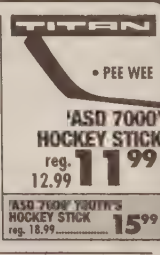


• ABS BLADE

'19S' ADULT'S HOCKEY STICK

reg. 17.99

15.99



• PEE WEE

'ASD 7000' HOCKEY STICK

reg. 12.99

11.99



'HK5' HELMET/ CAGE COMBO

reg. 59.99

49.99



YOUR CHOICE AGGRESSIVE WHEEL SETS

reg. 24.99

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'PRO BAD BOY' HILN WHEEL SET

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CHILD'S 2-PACK PROTECTIVE GEAR

reg. 24.99

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Skateboard Buys!



'DA CAT'

reg. 29.99

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'WOOD'

reg. 49.99

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'PRO SERIES III'

reg. 59.99

49.99



'TAZ'

reg. 24.99

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'TAZ DELUXE'

reg. 29.99

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'MACH 1000'

reg. 39.99

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'MACH 3000' SKATEBOARD

after sale 59.99

39.99

'MACH 5000' SKATEBOARD.....after sale 79.99 **49.99**

OPTICS

ZOOM BINOCULARS!



SAVE \$70

7 to 21 POWER BINOCULARS

- RUBBER ARMORING
- COATED OPTICS
- CENTER FOCUS

reg. 129.99 **59.99**

10 to 30 POWER ZOOM BINOCULARS reg. 179.99 **89.99**



SAVE \$160

525-POWER REFRACTOR TELESCOPE

- 60mm OBJECTIVE • TWO EYE PIECES
- MICRO-ADJUSTABLE ALTITUDE CONTROL
- ALUMINUM TRIPOD

reg. 279.99 **119.99**

200-POWER REFRACTOR TELESCOPE w/ TRIPOD reg. 99.99 **59.99**

SAVE \$70

8-POWER 'UCF' BINOCULARS

- COMPACT

reg. 99.99 **29.99**

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SAVE \$50

10-POWER ARMORED BINOCULARS

- COATED OPTICS

reg. 79.99 **29.99**

SAVE \$50

8-POWER 'PRO SPORT' BINOCULARS

- ROTATED PORRO PRISM DESIGN
- MULTI-COATED OPTICS

reg. 89.99 **39.99**

SAVE \$33

10-POWER RUBBER-ARMORED MONOCULARS

- WITH LANYARD & CASE

reg. 42.99 **9.99**

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20-POWER SPOTTING SCOPE

- INCLUDES TRIPOD

reg. 119.99 **79.99**

SAVE \$50

10-POWER 'PRO SPORT' BINOCULARS

- ROTATED PORRO PRISM DESIGN
- MULTI-COATED OPTICS

reg. 99.99 **49.99**

SUNGLASSES

Style Eyes

ADULT'S & KIDS' SUNGLASSES

Big 5 Low Price **\$10-\$30**

CHOOSE FROM A HUGE SELECTION OF LENSES & FRAME STYLES LIKE WRAPS, TRADITIONALS & MORE!

SCOTT 'RAY' SERIES

5 Styles to Choose From

reg. 89.99 **29.99**

100% UV PROTECTION

SAVE \$60

'ROOKIE' POLYCARBONATE LENS

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bolle

'METAL MAMBA' or 'COACH WHIP' POLYCARBONATE LENS

reg. 119.99 **29.99**

HEAD-HUGGING WRAP-AROUNDS

RACKET SALE

prince

'SYNERGY FINALIST' TENNIS

- GRAPHITE & ALUMINUM ALLOY

reg. 49.99 **29.99**

prince

'SYNERGY ELITE GRAPHITE' TENNIS

- OVERSIZED GRAPHITE HEAD

reg. 109.99 **59.99**

prince

'APPROACH' TOURNEY 400 BAG

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Wilson

'SMACK ATTACK' YOUTHS' TENNIS

reg. 18.99 **16.99**

Wilson

'TX3000' OVERSIZED TENNIS

- EXTRA LARGE HITTING AREA

reg. 39.99 **29.99**

Wilson

TENNIS BALLS

reg. 2.59 **2.29**

PRO KENEX

'TI-FORCE REACH 110' TENNIS

- ULTRA HI-MODULUS GRAPHITE WITH ULTRA HI-TECH TITANIUM MICRO MESH REINFORCEMENTS

reg. 139.99 **49.99**

PRO KENEX

'ASYMMETRIC' TENNIS

- HI-MODULUS GRAPHITE

SAVE \$130

reg. 189.99 **59.99**

EKTELON

'ASCENT' RACQUETBALL SET

- SET INCLUDES RACKET, RACQUETBALLS & EYEGUARDS

reg. 34.99 **29.99**

EKTELON

'FUSION XS' GRAPHITE RACQUETBALL RACKET

reg. 159.99 **59.99**

KNIVES & TOOLS

COAST

MICRO PLIERS

- 12-IN-1 STAINLESS STEEL TOOL
- WEIGHS 2 OZ.
- INCLUDES: PLIERS, SCISSORS, BOTTLE-OPENER & MORE!

after sale **9.99**

GERBER

'E-Z-OUT' FOLDING CLIP KNIFE

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LEATHERMAN

'WAVE' DELUXE MULTI-TOOL

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VICTORINOX

'VINTAGE' POCKET KNIFE

- FILE, BLADE, SCREWDRIVER & TWEEZERS

reg. 19.99 **9.99**

COMPASS

SEMI-SERRATED 3" POCKET CLIP KNIFE

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WORTH

13 1/2" VINTAGE LEATHER SOFTBALL GLOVE

reg. 89.99 **69.99**

WORTH

3 1/2" YOUTH'S SINGLE BATTING GLOVE

reg. 12.99 **7.99**

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WOMEN'S SPORTS APPAREL

adidas

DIMENSIONAL OR EMBROIDERED 100% COTTON T-SHIRT

after sale 16.99 **9.99**

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MEN'S or WOMEN'S SWEATS

SPALDING WOMEN'S SWEATSHIRT or SWEATPANTS

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HANES MEN'S SWEATSHIRT or SWEATPANTS

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MEN'S TWEED CREW

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'SANTIAGO II' GYM BAG

Big 5 Low Price **29.99**

adidas

'TPS' or 'TPX' BAT BAG

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'POWER DOME' SOFTBALL BAT

reg. 119.99 **89.99**

Mizuno

'FRANCHISE' YOUTH'S SINGLE BATTING GLOVE

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WORTH

3 1/2" YOUTH'S SINGLE BATTING GLOVE

reg. 12.99 **7.99**

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3 1/2" YOUTH'S SINGLE BATTING GLOVE

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WORTH

3 1/2" YOUTH'S SINGLE BATTING GLOVE

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WORTH

3 1/2" YOUTH'S SINGLE BATTING GLOVE

reg. 12.99 **7.99**

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ATHLETIC PANTS & JACKETS

REVERSIBLE HOOD or BRUSHED FLEECE COLLAR JACKET

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ASSORTED SCREENED 100% COTTON T-SHIRTS

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YOUR CHOICE

LAVON

MEN'S or WOMEN'S WARM-UPS

FLEECE

Full-zip Jacket & Assorted Styles!

reg. 39.99

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MEN'S or WOMEN'S WARM-UPS

Choose From an Assortment of Styles & Colors!

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COFFE

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reg. 14.99

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adidas

'HANSEN' JACKET

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• FULL-ZIP, HOODED POLYFIL WITH 3-STRIPES DESIGN ON FRONT POCKET

• EMBROIDERED ADIDAS LOGO

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EASTPAK

'SOLE LONG' DAYPACK

• MOLDED RUBBER BOTTOM

• RUGGED NYLON CONSTRUCTION

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• HEAVY DUTY CORDURA PLUS NYLON

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'MINI COURT II' YOUTH'S BASKETBALL BACKBOARD & STAND

• STURDY 3-PRONGED METAL POLE & BASE

• HEIGHT EASILY ADJUSTS FROM 2 FT. TO 6 FT.

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RADEN 'MINSTAR' BASKETBALL

reg. 8.99

7.99

SAVE \$50

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249.99

Rawlings BASKETBALLS

'NCAA GOLD' INTERMEDIATE

reg. 24.99

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'NCAA GOLD' YOUTH'S

reg. 16.99

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'NBA' RUBBER YOUTH'S

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SHOP EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION!

'PRIMUS' Y-FRAME 21 SPEED MOUNTAIN BIKE w/ DUAL SUSPENSION

• GRIP SHIFTERS

• Z-BRAKES

• 26-INCH WHEELS

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149.99

SAVE \$80

'CONTENDER' TABLE TENNIS TABLE

NET & POSTS NOT INCLUDED.

• 5/8" GREEN TOP

• 3" DIAMETER HEAVY-DUTY CASTERS

• 1" DIAMETER SPECIAL 'V' SHAPED LEG

reg. 159.99

119.99

SAVE \$40

HARVARD 'CLASSIC' TABLE TENNIS SET FOR 4 PLAYERS

after sale 14.99

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SPORTCRAFT

ELECTRONIC 'PRO CUP' SOCCER TABLE

Exciting Score-Activated Sound Effects!

• ELECTRONIC SCORER, TWO PERIOD TIME CLOCK

• SOLID STEEL RODS

• SMOOTH-ACTION NYLON BALL-BEARING BUSHINGS

reg. 399.99

249.99

SAVE \$150

Riddell

NFL TEAMS MINI REPLICAS HELMETS

TEAMS AVAILABLE: COWBOYS, RAIDERS, DOLPHINS, PACKERS, BRONCOS OR 49ERS

(TEAMS MAY VARY BY STORE)

Big 5 Low Price

reg. 19.99

19.99

St. Pierre

'ROYAL' HORSESHOE SET

• INCLUDES 4 SHOES, 2 STAKES & RULES

reg. 24.99

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Wilson

MINI FOOTBALLS

• CHOOSE FROM COWBOYS, 49ERS, PACKERS, RAIDERS, JAGUARS OR BRONCOS

(TEAMS MAY VARY BY STORE)

FUN SIZED

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Mitre

'BARCELONA' YOUTH'S SOCCER CLEATS

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reg. 34.99

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Halex

'2.0' ELECTRONIC DARTBOARD

(BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED)

reg. 69.99

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Accudart

'UNION JACK' BRISTLE DARTBOARD

INCLUDES DARTS

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'PRO 1250' VOLLEYBALL SET

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Mitre

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ORIGINAL HULA-HOOP

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LAUNCHER WITH 3 SOFT-TIPPED ROCKETS

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'BRAIN' YO-YO

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GOLF SPECIALS

SOUTH BAY GOLF

'TX-7' OVERSIZED GOLF SET

With 1, 3 & 5 Ti-Alloy Woods & 3-9 Stainless Matrix Irons

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SAVE \$100

'DUAL TECH' OVERSIZED GOLF SET

With 1, 3 & 5 Titanium Matrix Woods & 3-9 Investment Cast Irons Plus Pitching Wedge

reg. 249.99

169.99

'NEW GENERATION' YOUTH'S GOLF SET

SET INCLUDES: DRIVER, 5 & 9 IRONS, PUTTER & LIGHTWEIGHT GOLF BAG

reg. 79.99

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SAVE \$20

TOP-FLITE

'XL2000' PLAYERS' CHOICE ASSORTMENT

ONE DOZEN BALLS

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JEF

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'EXECUTIVE' GOLF BALL CABINET

BALLS NOT INCLUDED.

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JEF

9-FOOT DELUXE PUTTING CARPET

reg. 27.99

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GARTER

'STEALTH' GOLF CART

• LIGHTWEIGHT STEEL CHASSIS

• AUTO-FOLDING

reg. 39.99

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CASIO

SELECTED ANALOG SPORT WATCHES

• QUARTZ MOVEMENT

• STAINLESS STEEL BACK

• GENUINE LEATHER BAND

after sale 54.99

19.99 EACH

WENGER

'SCOUT DIAL' WATCH

• GENUINE SWISS MOVEMENT

• 50m WATER RESISTANT

reg. 119.99

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SWISS ARMY

'OFFICER'S' STAINLESS STEEL DRESS WATCH

• PRECISION SWISS QUARTZ MOVEMENT

• LEATHER BAND

• STAINLESS STEEL CASE

reg. 249.99

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BIG 5 SPORTING GOODS

Gift Ideas Perfect for the Outdoors!

ACADEMY BROADWAY

5' x 7' 2-PERSON DOME TENT
reg. 39.99
29⁹⁹

6 1/2' x 7' 3-PERSON DOME TENT
reg. 49.99
39⁹⁹

Both tents feature polyurethane coated nylon taffeta walls.

Coleman

54" CENTER HEIGHT

Waterproof floor, oversized rear window & 'no-see-um' screening.

7' x 7' 'SUNDOME' 3-PERSON TENT
reg. 89.99
59⁹⁹

QUICKDRAW SELF-ERECTING TENTS

45" CENTER HEIGHT

Self-erects in 3 seconds. Folds & stores in 30 seconds.

'GLACIER' SELF-ERECTING 2-PERSON TENT
reg. 99.99
79⁹⁹

SLEEPING BAGS

Coleman

3-LB. 808® FILL NYLON COVER SLEEPING BAG
• 33" x 75"
reg. 32.99
22⁹⁹

E-Z-UP® 9' x 9' INSTANT CANOPY
Great for camping, picnics, anywhere!

SETS UP IN 60 SECONDS

reg. 159.99
139⁹⁹

Coleman

ELECTRONIC IGNITION PROPANE STOVE
reg. 79.99
49⁹⁹

- TWO 10,000 BTU BURNERS
- ALUMINIZED TOP
- HIGH PRESSURE REGULATOR FOR CONSTANT OUTPUT

50-QUART EX. WIDE COOLER COMBO
reg. 29.99
24⁹⁹

- INCLUDES 50-QT. COOLER, 'HIP HUG 6' SOFT COOLER & 1 1/2 GALLON JUG

SLEEPING BAGS FROM

ACADEMY BROADWAY

'CORONADO' 3-LB. FILL
reg. 27.99
21⁹⁹

'KODIAK' X-LG. 5-LB. FILL
reg. 59.99
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All Aluminum

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• 2 3/4" 1 1/8 OZ. EXTRA-LONG RANGE
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- 7.62 x 54R CALIBER
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- HANDLES 2 3/4" OR 3" SHOTSHELLS
- CABLE LOCK INCLUDED

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- 8-ROUND AUTO LOAD
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SHOOTS 20 PAINTBALLS IN 10 SECONDS!

- 36" BLOW GUN
- INCLUDES 100 .40 CAL. WATER SOLUBLE PAINTBALLS
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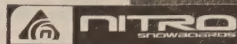
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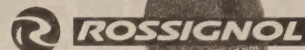
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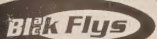
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WIDE WIDTH

- FULL WOOD CORE WITH VERTICAL LAMINATES
- MID FLEX
- DIRECTIONAL STANCE
- EXTRUDED BASE
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With Nylon Frames, Polycarbonate Lens and Wrap Styling

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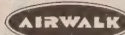
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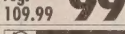
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BOOTS



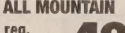
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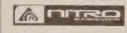
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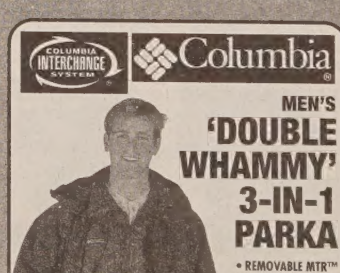
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In an Assortment of Colors & Styles

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THE FREERIDER'S CHOICE!

Each Helmet Features Removable Padded Ears for Warmth and Rear Goggle Strap

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Holds 2 Snowboards or 6 Skis

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Made for Snowboarders and Skiers

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